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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

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Baltic Council of Ministers Meets in Riga

LD1309213194 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] A secretariat of the Baltic Council of Ministers was opened in Riga today. According to Latvian Premier Valdis Birkavs, this event raises the relations between the Baltic states to a new level, because cooperation is thus launched between the executive powers of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

In the opinion of the founders of the Baltic Council of Ministers, cooperation of the Baltic states in various spheres, having a united and permanently operating Baltic Council of Ministers, will be much easier and effective. The Council will coordinate the preparation of joint Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian projects and their realization. In addition, admission to the European Union and relations with other countries will depend on the cooperation of the Baltic states.

The prime ministers of the Baltic states have signed their first agreement in the premises of the secretariat, that on the formation of the Baltic peace-keeping battalion and a statement on cooperation of the Baltic governments.

Prime Ministers Sign Agreement

LD1309203994 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The prime ministers of the Baltic countries have signed a cooperation agreement setting out the main strands of cooperation and the principles of operation of the Baltic Council of Ministers. In the agreement, the leaders state that it is necessary to work together on problems relating to customs and border protection, social security, and reducing crime, as well as trade, education, science, energy supplies, and other spheres. During the meeting, Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar and Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius also signed an agreement by Latvia and Lithuania on cooperating in agricultural produce trade.

The prime ministers of the Baltic countries also discussed cooperation with regards to the Council of Europe, the European Union, and other international organizations. Afterwards there was a news conference, in which the government leaders of all three Baltic countries participated. Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs emphasized that Latvia will employ all internal legislative means and international pressure to bring about the expulsion from Latvia of all military personnel demobilized in Latvia since 28 January 1992. Laar supported this viewpoint, explaining that these people are illegally in Latvia and Estonia, and added that this is also a security issue. This viewpoint was also supported by Slezevicius. Moreover, the Baltic prime ministers ruled out any possibility of military cooperation with Russia.

Peacekeeping Agreement Signed

LD1309133894 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The secretariat of the Baltic Council of Ministers was inaugurated in Riga today. It is set up on the basis of a trilateral agreement on parliamentary and governmental cooperation between Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania and according to the statutes of the Baltic Council of Ministers.

A trilateral agreement on setting up a Baltic peacekeeping battalion was also signed at during the opening of the secretariat. A joint resolution on the main principles of work of the Baltic Council of Ministers was also passed. A session of the Baltic Council of Ministers took place after the opening of the secretariat.

PRAVDA Views Deliberations of CIS Heads of Government

MM1309143194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 2

[Commentary by Igor Lenskiy: "Through Common Citizenship—to a New Union. New Idea at Meeting at President-Hotel"]

[Text] At the meeting in Moscow, the heads of government of CIS countries took certain steps toward creating an interstate economic committee. This was mainly prompted by the fall in the volume of production throughout the CIS by an average of another 30 percent in the first six months of the year.

The idea of the interstate economic committee was approved by the presidents a year ago after it had become clear that not a single one of the hundreds of jointly elaborated decisions had been implemented in practice. However, the attempt to turn the Economic Union, which was purely a paper organization, into a working mechanism has invariably encountered obstacles. The main one of these is that there is no clarity as to what extent (proportion?) the opinions of various members of the CIS should be taken into consideration during the adoption of decisions which are binding on everyone. Furthermore, there is no unity even as regards the idea that such decisions are necessary at all. Turkmenia [Turkmenistan] and Azerbaijan, for example, straightaway snapped "No!" And things will not get moving without their agreement (given that the interstate economic committee is to control transnational gas and oil pipelines, among other things).

During the past year, interest in integration within the CIS framework has been stirred in the new independent states by illusions of a single ruble zone. At the September 1993 meeting, held after the dispersal of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, B. Yeltsin, mainly concerned about gaining support for his action, made unjustified overtures to his presidential colleagues in this respect. Life frustrated these projects, and there can be no return to them today. "The average pay in Russia is currently $100," V. Chernomyrdin stated. "But in the majority of republics it is 4-5. There is no point extending the ruble zone to everyone." The premier's proposal to the partners to "pull their economy up to the Russian standard" may only raise a smile. This is absolutely unrealistic, although it sounds convincing as a condition. Apparently, it is only now that the new states are becoming aware of the fact that in the Soviet era they received far more from the center than they gave to it. And now.... A statement once made, not without aplomb, by [former Finance Minister] B. Fedorov comes to mind: "You can only join the ruble zone by entering the Russian Federation."

In the end, having given up the idea of a single currency, it was decided to create a payment union, relying on the mutual convertibility of currencies. This path is as simple as it is futile. Even if you are totally optimistic, it is hard to imagine that the rapidly depreciating ersatz money, all those coupons, drams, tengs, and manats, may be needed somewhere other other than in the countries that issue then.

The most profound, serious, and far-reaching proposal seems to be the one on a single CIS citizenship, supported by Russia, Turkmenia, Belorussia [Belarus], and Armenia. It contains the element of restoring in the future (maybe not in the very near future) a political union achieved through the suffering of our people's common history. That useful plan, were it to be put into effect, may in itself settle all the other discrepancies which today seem irresoluble.

New Rules for Black Sea Navigation 'Create New Threats'

LD1309133994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1136 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] New rules for passage by vessels through the Black Sea straits Bosporus and Dardanelles not only do not add to navigational safety, but create new threats, says the statement of the standing commission for foreign political affairs of the CIS Inter-Parliament Assembly.

Navigation in the Black Sea straits should meet universally- acknowledged principles and norms of international law, the decisions of international organizations, and ensure uninterrupted and swift passage of vessels through international straits, says the document adopted by the commission on September 10 in Batumi. The document was produced after the commission considered the problem caused by the Turkish government imposing a navigation schedule for Bosporus and Dardanelles.

The commission shows understanding in terms of the need to increase safety and facilitate international navigation through the straits. At the same time, the commission believes, some items of the rules do not correspond to provisions of the 1936 Montreaux Convention which determines the navigation schedule in the straits. The commission believes that the rules adopted by the Turkish government cannot be recognized as being in line with international law. Turkish proposals aimed at establishing international control over navigation in the straits were rejected by the Committee for Safety at Sea under the International Maritime Organization.

Navigation through the Black Sea and the straits is of vital importance for all countries sharing the sea, says the statement of the Inter-parliamentary Assembly. Meanwhile, the introduction of the new rules has meant numerous delays in passage of vessels through the straits of Bosporus and Dardanelles, causing considerable losses.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 14 Sep

LD1409061194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0536 GMT 14 Sep 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS—The majority of reports carried by today's newspapers are devoted to economic problems.

The newspaper TRUD carries an interview with the Russian Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin, who pointed out that in August, a tendency of stabilisation in industry continued. "It is important not to lose balance now. The situation is as if we were continuing to walk a tightrope, and a step to the left and to the right might be equally dangerous. But the most important thing is that positive tendencies are gathering momentum," Shokhin said.

IZVESTIYA carries an article on its front page which analyses the condition of the grain market in the country. It was pointed out that the demand for grain fodder sharply went down and that the amount of fodder available will be sufficient this year. The population has been economically using bread, no longer feeds it to the cattle, which saves around 3 million tons in the country.

Analysing the grain policy conducted by the government, the newspaper says that it can hardly be described as intentional, adding that it was "rather a movement at the mercy of waves". Nevertheless, the newspaper said that some progress has been achieved. In particular, the government intends to subsidise the exports of grain accumulated in the country.

The newspaper RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA carries an appeal to President Boris Yeltsin made by the work collective of the joint stock society "the Baltic shipbuilding plant "Jantar" (Kaliningrad) which, apart from criticism of the political course, contains economic demands.

An article entitled "A Ring of Elite Divisions of the Moscow Military District Created Around Moscow", published by NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, says that the

"Russian Army objectively cannot act as a supporter of the course pursued by the president and the government."

The newspaper ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI says that the tax burden should not destroy Russian vodka. Commenting on a session of the government commission for emergency issues held on Tuesday, at which problems of alcohol production were discussed, the newspaper says that one fourth of this market was given to foreign manufacturers of alcoholic beverages. "Often our shops are loaded with low-quality products which have nothing to do with products produced by famous companies, and which, as a matter of fact, are not provided with any certificates. The excise tax in Russia amounts to 85 per cent. The taxes are exorbitant and in comparison with nearby CIS countries look like robbery," the newspaper said.

The press continues to highlight the situation in the Crimea. The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA says that the outcome of the confrontation between the two branches of power is not clear yet.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points out that the Crimean president and the parliament are coming to terms, adding that the power crisis in the Crimea is drawing to an end. An article by a correspondent of the newspaper ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Simferopol, Aleksandr Ryabushev, says that the attitude of the presidium of the crimean parliament to the Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov is aggressive.

The TRUD newspaper says that steps taken by the two branches of power, including a meeting between the Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and the Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov, the speaker of the Crimean parliament Sergey Tsekov and a group of lawmakers "inspires one with hope that the power crisis in the Crimea is past its peak."

Analysing the situation in Chechnya, the newspaper ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI writes: "The Chechen society has been split. Chechens having ties of kinship and even belonging to the same family appeared to be on the opposite sides of the barricades. The civil war in Chechnya is tantamount to self-extermination," the newspaper said. An interview given by the head of the Nadterechnyy region Umar Abturkhanov to the France Press News Agency says that the times of Dudayev's ouster have not come yet and this is unlikely to happen in the near future."

IZVESTIYA writes that recently, director of the Russian Counter- Intelligence Service Sergey Stepashin handed over documents from KGB archives to the museum of the Russian poet Sergey Yesenin in the Ryazan region, which show that the poet was constantly persecuted by security agents.

Yeltsin U.S. Visit May Boost Trade Opportunities

LD1309162494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1544 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Yuriy Kozlov and Andrey Serov]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—During preparations for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming visit to the United States, in particular, opportunities for opening American markets for Russian goods are being considered. This problem was discussed during working consultations between Russian and American diplomats with the participation of Strobe Talbott, U.S. deputy secretary of state in Moscow at the end of last week.

Mikhail Demurin, Russian Foreign Ministry's spokesman Mikhail Demurin told TASS today that during these consultations, joint approaches have been worked out to items on the agenda of the forthcoming Russian-U.S. summit.

The question concerning U.S. investments in Russia was also included in the economic section of the agenda besides the item about opening the markets.

Discussing the prospects of cooperation between the two countries on the international scene, the two leaders are expected to speak on establishing real partnership and regulation of regional conflicts, peacemaking, and reforms in the European security establishments.

The strategic stability and further steps to limit armament and strengthen existing rules and regulations of non-proliferation will be included in items of the agenda's military and political section.

Grachev To Visit U.S. With Yeltsin

MM1309150994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under "Inform" rubric roundup: "Inspecting His Possessions"]

[Text] The Russian Ministry of Defense has reported that Army General Pavel Grachev has for the third time postponed until a future date his planned trip to the Far East. His visit to troops stationed in the eastern extremity of Russia was "curtailed" the first time owing to the need to visit a European country. The trip was canceled the second time owing to...the untimely demise of North Korean leader Kim Il-song. The country's top leadership recommended the minister of defense "not to fuel the situation on the Far Eastern borders."

Now Pavel Grachev will be unable to visit the troops because of a personal order from Boris Yeltsin. The president of Russia is taking the army general with him to the United States, for where they will depart at the end of September. Therefore, on returning from Denmark at the weekend, Pavel Grachev decided to pay a brief visit to the troops of Moscow Military District. The minister of defense spent Monday in Smolensk, and today he is expected at the arms exhibition in Nizhniy Novgorod. But the Far East remains far off....

Says Military Topics Not on Agenda

LD1309114094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1025 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Nizhniy Novgorod, 13 Sept—"Purely military aspects" of the Russian-U.S. cooperation are not to be examined at a meeting between the Russian and U.S. president which is planned for the end of September, ITAR-TASS has learned from Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev who is touring the Moscow military district. Grachev also said that Russia and the United States "have a long-term program for military cooperation."

He said he does not intend to take part in the U.S. visit, and that the Russian Defense Ministry will be represented by a deputy chief of General Staff.

Today the defense minister visited a military compound of the Guards tank and artillery division which is stationed near Nizhniy Novgorod and which was withdrawn from eastern Europe. Hundreds of servicemen and their families have already moved to new houses and practically all servicemen of the formation will be housed by the end of the year.

Grachev particularly emphasized the fact that local military authorities, and in particular, the regional governor Boris Nemtsov, are devoting much attention to the problems of the military.

Today the minister will visit the "Arms, combat equipment and conversion" exhibition in Nizhniy Novgorod.

Results of U.S. Secretary Espy's Visit Viewed

MM1309104194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Yuriy Nikolayev under the "Visits" rubric: "We Will, Nonetheless, Buy Grain Abroad"]

[Text] The visit of U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy to Moscow elicited great interest in the Russian and foreign mass media. Only they were most interested not in the establishment of ties between the two countries' rural producers but in the answer to this question: Will Russia import grain after all, or will it not? This question has recently acquired not so much a purely economic hue as a political one: Who will emerge victorious from the dispute that has flared over grain—Aleksandr Zaveryukha and the agricultural lobby or their opponents?

It came to light that grain will, nonetheless, have to be imported. Some details of the negotiations with Mike Espy on Russia's grain imports were learned from a source that is well informed about their substance. The U.S. secretary of agriculture was interested primarily in the prospects for this year's harvest and, of course, in whether we will need additional grain purchases. The question is understandable, if you consider that the Russian side has not drawn up a single contract with foreign partners for such purchases.

The press has even carried figures: It is planned to import up to 6 million tonnes of grain from the United States, for example. It is hardly possible, however, to speak of this with complete certainty. Everything will evidently depend on the size of the harvest. But one thing is perfectly clear now: We will not have to look abroad for feed grain, for we have a surplus of it. The prime reason for this is the sharp drop in the numbers of livestock (by almost one-half: According to information as of 1 January, the reduction amounted to 33 percent and increased by a further 13 percent in the space of six months).

"Moreover," Leonid Cheshinskiy told our correspondent, "we intend to export feed grain. Naturally, the main purchasers will be the CIS countries, since, given the present customs tariff rates, it hardly pays to export to the far abroad. But the question of subsidizing exports is now being resolved. Specifically, railroad tariffs are to be reduced by 50 percent. In that case we will be in a position to sell surplus feed grain abroad." Incidentally, in the United States and other countries it is usual to subsidize exports.

At the same time, despite the decent harvest, the country obviously might be short of wheat and protein raw materials and in rather a tight spot with regard to corn. Therefore it will evidently be necessary, nonetheless, to buy in a little. And yet everybody knows that the treasury does not have the cash for this. This is known and understood in the United States. Therefore Mr. Mike Espy offered Russia preferential credit in this case. We would, of course, like credit over 15 years, for example, and on the condition that it will start to be repaid, let us say, some seven years after being issued. Particularly as we already have such experience. Of course, this is very advantageous, since it is not necessary to pay at once, now.

So, there was an amicable and fruitful discussion, and both sides were left content. The United States is known to be interested in selling its agricultural produce: This year the corn harvest is over 40 percent bigger than last year (they will get approximately 270 million tonnes), and soybeans 20 percent bigger (they will gather approximately 70 million tonnes). An unprecedented wheat harvest is also expected.

Hence it is clear that the prospects for grain imports have become appreciably clearer. But other problems, no less important to us, were also discussed in addition to this one. For Russian-U.S. ties in the sphere of agriculture had hitherto been limited essentially to trade in grain. Questions of the mutual exchange of experience in various spheres of agriculture and the production of highly productive technologies for processing meat, milk, and vegetables in the form of joint ventures, cooperative production facilities, or the construction of new enterprises, which could be partly owned by Americans, were touched on during the meetings.

It is of considerable importance to us to develop pedigree breeding and seed growing (to set up livestock breeding centers and joint transplantation centers and to cultivate protein and oilseed crops, particularly soybeans). We display considerable interest in cooperation in the production of various types of agricultural hardware and certain equipment for the food industry based on our conversion enterprises. The first steps have already been taken to create a market infrastructure: A price monitoring service is being introduced in Kaluga through the efforts of two agrarian ministries-partners with financial and technical assistance from the Americans. Training of our specialists in organizing a civilized market in the new economic conditions is making good progress.

In short, it is possible to say that our cooperation in the sphere of the agro-industrial complex is still just starting out. Its main areas and forms are now being mapped out. Let us hope that the visit of the U.S. secretary of agriculture will give it the boost that it so needs.

Western Oilmen To Attend Lukoil Share Auction

MM1309122794 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Russia in September Sales: Pearl Goes Under the Hammer"]

[Text] Western oil magnates have been invited to a sale of shares in the major Russian company Lukoil.

Lukoil was the first company set up after the disintegration of the country's unified oil complex. As a recent issue of ROSSIYSKIY NEFTYANOY BYULLETEN noted, Lukoil, like all the other newly fledged Russian oil companies, is experiencing to its cost all the "joys of entering the market," and, in an attempt to overcome economic difficulties, periodically carries out various kinds of reorganization every six months.

The share-sale auction scheduled for the end of this month is yet another attempt to keep itself afloat. Lukoil Vice President Leonid Fedun has given an interview to a MOSCOW TIMES correspondent in which he stressed that this will be the first sale for money of shares in a major power company. The shares will be offered in large blocks comprising about 0.4 percent of the capital of each enterprise; together these enterprises account for approximately 15 percent of Russian oil production. At current market prices each such block of shares in Langepasneftegaz, for example, is valued at roughly $2.5 million. But individual share holdings in Kogalymneftegaz could actually be worth $7.6 million.

Lukoil is dubbed one of the pearls in the Russian privatization program. Last year the company exported 5.2 million tonnes of oil.

It is planned to offer 10 percent of all the shares at the September auction. However, that is not the limit. Next year foreign buyers will be offered 15 percent of the shares and a further 2.4 percent will be offered to major Russian investors.

In the articles "Occupation Fever" and "Yankee in Search of Klondike: We Are Already Here!" (SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 30 August and 10 September 1994) we cited the testimonies of Britain's FINANCIAL TIMES and the U.S. WALL STREET JOURNAL on the plundering of Russian oil resources now under way. The petrodollar auctions are a further confirmation of this. As THE MOSCOW TIMES justly remarks, at the forthcoming September sale Lukoil shares will be more than inaccessible to investors of average means....

U.S. Scores 'Unconditional Triumph' in Cuba Talks

MM1309141794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Nadein: "Never Before Has Fidel Been Such a Good Boy. Cuba Unexpectedly Accepts All U.S. Conditions at Talks on Refugees"]

[Text] Washington—The eight-day U.S.-Cuban talks in New York have ended in such a resounding unconditional triumph for Washington that observers are lost in conjecture as to what secret benefits Fidel Castro might have received in order to voluntarily agree to totally surrender.

The Cuban president pledged to keep his compatriots from making dramatic sea voyages with a view to moving to the United States. He also agreed to take back and not persecute the 30,000 refugees who have left Cuba over the past few weeks and are now being kept at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo and in Panama, where a camp for displaced persons was recently opened.

In response the U.S. Government pledged to accept at least 20,000 Cubans a year. The procedure will fully comply with U.S. immigration laws—there will be no emergency or informal procedures. This means in particular that the latest wave of refugees, the adept builders of ramshackle rafts, and the heroes of ocean voyages will not have any advantages over those who did not spend their money on rafts, did not risk their lives, and did not leave Cuba.

The agreement came into force immediately, but there are reports from the island of a fresh surge of activity on the beaches. People who believe no one are feverishly assembling the last rafts under the coast guard's indifferent gaze. They do not believe the U.S. Government, which said that previous practice has been done away with and no fugitives will be allowed into the United States, or the Cuban Government, which warned its fellow citizens of the dangers of an amateur ocean voyage.

Castro, who announced that an agreement had been reached in New York, said that the 32-year U.S. economic blockade is the main cause of his country's woes. He said that the Americans insisted on limiting the topic of the talks to emigration problems. Cuba wanted to discuss the normalization of relations between the two countries.

A U.S. State Department spokesman said Friday that further talks between Washington and Havana are conditional upon economic and political reforms in Cuba.

In the opinion of a NEW YORK TIMES observer, Castro has derived such negligible benefit from the agreement that has been concluded that this prompts the idea that Castro has received some additional secret assurances. For instance, that the problem of the economic embargo will be discussed somewhat later once a very important and sensitive campaign for the incumbent administration is over—the November elections to both legislative chambers.

The Democrats, Clinton's party, are fearfully anticipating a likely success for the Republican opposition. The very fact of talks with Castro may prove unpopular. Many people in the United States believe that the breakup of the Soviet bloc renders Castro's position totally hopeless and that there is no reason to help him.

However, the Clinton administration is rather inclined to see the negotiating process as a means of prompting reforms. Many influential members of the U.S. Cuban community are also inclined to that view. In their opinion, the Cuban economy can only be saved from inevitable crisis by beginning reforms.

Castro is striving to persuade his former compatriots that he will be able to decommunize Cuba better than anyone else. However, there are more opponents of this idea outside Cuba than supporters.

It is clear from the text of the U.S.-Cuban agreement that the Havana government is to use the "appropriate means" to stem the flood of refugees. In principle totalitarian states have no problems in keeping their citizens. The question is how far Castro wants to use force.

Although the Cuban community in the United States is both well-off and productive, by and large Cuban refugees here have a very bad reputation owing to the tremendous concentration of criminals in every wave of refugees. Therefore the determined—unparalleled—measures taken by the administration in barring refugees' access to U.S. shores were initially greeted with amazement and then with approval. No one likes the idea of admitting 30,000 people to live off U.S. taxpayers' money for six months at the very least.

However, defenders of human rights and opponents of Castro are afraid that the U.S. diplomatic victory will translate into amnesia regarding Cuba's problems. They also believe that, by encouraging Castro to use the state's might to keep his fellow citizens from emigrating, Washington is involved in a violation of basic rights and freedoms.

Aspen Conference Adopts Final Declaration

LD1309140294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1138 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Loshchilin]

[Text] Washington September 13 TASS—The sixth Russo-American forum, held within the frameworks of the "Aspen Dialogue", was rounded off by the adoption of a final declaration. The text of this document, which will be shortly submitted to Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton, was read out during a press conference at the National Press Club here on Monday.

The declaration contains recommendations to the leaders of the two countries who are about to meet again at summit level. The forum participants deem it urgently necessary for Russia to achieve macroeconomic stabilisation and stable growth of production. At the same time, they note the importance of making macroeconomic policy match the tasks of achieving social stability. The West, including the U.S. Administration, the declaration says, must actively cooperate with Russia in the effort to work out a strategy aimed at setting up an effective system of social insurance.

The forum participants express the view that American aid should be intended to back up Russian business so as to make it competitive both on the domestic and international markets. They called on the U.S. government to grant loans, provide guarantees and other stimuli to companies wishing to invest in Russia and to promote relations of partnership with Russian enterprises. The declaration urges washington to influence international financial organisations, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, so that they would contribute to the accumulation in Russia of accessible private monetary reserves, and also recommends the Russian government to create conditions for the repatriation of Russian capital.

The forum delegates deem it necessary to discuss the question of completely changing the structure of the Russian foreign debt and to write off a part of it. The participants of the "Aspen Dialogue" recommend the United States and other Western nations to try to pull down the trade barriers interfering with Russia's access to their markets. They point to the need to annul the discriminatory Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which, since the seventies, have made the granting of the most favoured nation status to Russia dependent on the free emigration of Jews from the former USSR. They ask the U.S. government to ensure the access of Russia goods to American markets.

"We believe unacceptable the idea of reforming the Coordination Committee for Controlling Exports to the Former Socialist States by setting up a new supervisory council instead of it. All restrictions on the delivery of high-tech goods to Russia must be fully abolished," chairman of the Russian State Duma committee for economic policy Sergey Glazyev said. "The United States must open its markets for the tariff-free import of Russian goods, must stop pressing for privileges to American companies doing business in Russia, must help several CIS countries pay their debts to Russia for the delivered energy-carriers, must not interfere in our domestic affairs."

the declaration acknowledges that the forum participants had run up against difficulties during the discussion of the problem of the former Soviet republics' reintegration. "The forum has recorded a 90-per cent identity of views shared by Russian and American participants," chairman of the State Duma committee for CIS affairs and contacts with fellow-countrymen Konstantin Zatulin stated in this connection. "The remaining 10 per cent included differences on the reintegrational processes now under way on the territory of the former USSR. Many people in the United States believe this is fraught with the danger of the empire's restoration. We, for our part, believe this is an objective reality, dictated by purely pragmatic reasons. Nobody can really oppose the will of the peoples and states to unite if it is expressed in constitutional and international legal forms, on the basis of their free expression of will and mutual respect." as a matter of fact, the latter formula was included in the final document of the meeting. The forum participants expressed concern about the state of human rights in some CIS countries and the lot of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic states. They called for support to the development in Russia of free, independent, and economically stable press organs, noting in particular that a sound economy depended on the free exchange of information.

The delegates of the forum believe that their debates will contribute to the solution of problems, involving the interests of both sides. The two delegations have reached agreement to hold the next meeting within the frameworks of the "Aspen Dialogue" in Sochi, southern Russia, next spring.

Haiti Invasion May Set Precedent for Russia

MM1309153994 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 3

[Commentary by Gennadiy Sperskiy under the rubric "Open Season for Clinton's 'Peacekeepers'": "License for Haiti"]

[Excerpts] An amusing ditty relates how "on the island of Haiti lived the negro Titi-Miti..." His life, like that of his companion—the parrot Ke-Ke—was fairly serene: "Every morning, for a treat, three bananas he would eat...."

Alas, in reality life in Haiti is very far from idyllic. The island state in the West Indies, on which Colombus set foot in 1492, was conquered at the end of the 15th century by Spanish conquistadors. Asserting Christian values, they almost completely destroyed the indigenous population and unexpectedly discovered that there was no one to work on this fertile tropical island: They had to imort negro slaves from Africa to the plantations. That was when the negro Titi-Miti who made friends with Ke-Ke the parrot became a native Haitian....

But the negroes' life here was no better than that of the ruthlessly destroyed Indians. In accordance with the Monroe doctrine, according to which the whole of Latin America is the United States' backyard, American troops occupied Haiti in 1915 and remained on the island until 1934, not only having failed to resolve but actually having dangerously exacerbated the serious social problems, above all the glaring contradictions between the handful of "new Haitians"—mainly mulattoes—and the ruthlessly repressed black majority.

Even after the withdrawal of troops, the United States remained the de facto master of this tropical island. During World War II it was turned into its military and raw materials base. During the dictatorial rule of the Duvalier family in Haiti a cynical turn of phrase entered the vocabulary of American politiicans: "Our son of a bitch." This has always been the underlying principle of U.S. foreign policy: It is unimportant what political views this or that foreign ruler holds, as long as he dances to the American tune!

This principle operates to this day, although the United States pretends that it is primarily concerned with establishing "democratic values." Washington got the United Nations Security Council to adopt Resolution 940, according to which U.S. troops received the right to invade Haiti to overthrow the regime of General Raoul Cedras. The official American version of the latest occupation of Haiti is to restore President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who fled the island in 1991. [passage omitted]

It seems there could be nothing simpler, after the American war machine's rich experience of invading the territory of its neighbors, including Haiti, than to return the exile Jean-Bertrand Aristide to the presidential palace. After all, however much General Cedras frets and fumes with his "flintlocks," one reinforced regiment with naval and air firepower in support will be sufficient to "restore justice." Some analysts suggest that intervention can be effected within 10 minutes, but at once add: However, afterward the consequences could take decades to disentangle!

Formerly, when the United States was cultivating such flowers in its garden as Duvalier, Stroessner, or Pinochet, one more general-dictator would not have inconvenienced them. They would have reached agreement in a trice along the lines of the "our son of a bitch" formula. But now, you see, Gen. Cedras in no way fits their image as democrats and peacekeepers!

In view of the results of public opinion polls Washington would not want to start the dirty work on its own. And therefore it is dragging others into the venture, sanctifying it with the authority of the United Nations, and spreading responsibility for the invasion and its consequences to all and sundry.

The lessons of Somalia and Rwanda, in which the interventionists manifestly failed to cope with the situation, also prompt the Americans to test the waters before wading in. But who will provide guarantees that the marines, having easily overcome Gen. Cedras' redoubts, will not be overwhelmed by Haiti's poverty? To go into someone else's territory—moreover with proclaimed peacekeeping goals—means to take part in the fate of the people living there. Is the world's richest country ready for this? Alas, Americans are incapable of feeding hundreds of thousands of hungry and starving people with five loaves. They cannot even cope with the refugees. There was an attempt to disperse them forcibly among zones and islands in Panama and Honduras, but those countries refused to accept the Caribbean homeless. But now wave after wave of refugees is rolling onto the shore of the Stars and Stripes, and each one is shouting: "I want to eat."

Today the most decisive members of the President's circle and critics of his foreign policy are calling for the Caribbean knot to be cut immediately. Others advise him to wait, to try yet again to talk the general round or butter him up, meanwhile finding him some menial position outside Haiti. The quarrel between their masters for power concerns the Haitians themselves least of all. Cedras or Aristide—there is no choosing between two bad apples. But politicians and journalists continue to speculate: Will the gun fire or not?

The most shameful thing of all in this shameful story for us Russians is that we are mixed up in it, and by no means marginally so. It seems we are mastering the role of the United States' "junior partner" with increasing confidence. The stance of Russian diplomacy in the UN Security Council, SEGODNYA hinted (21 July 1994), was predetermined: It was about this stance, the paper says, that the speaker of the Russian parliament's upper chamber V. Shumeyko went to inform the U.S. President. Possibly a "Clinton-Yeltsin" mini-pact has already been signed?

Despite the "denial" of Kozyrev's department, UN and other sages explain Russia's position by its leadership's desire to have its hands untied in the Caucasus in exchange for supporting the United States in Haiti. But is such a desire worth much? Will not Uncle Sam say: "Be so kind as to do what you are told, to the letter"? They tried for days to squeeze Estonia, but heeded the U.S. President's shrill cry, and at once obediently wagged their tails. Boris Nikolayev had apparently forgotten that, in addition to the Kremlin, the Baltic too has now been declared a zone of U.S. interests!

In declining to support the UN Security Council's resolution on Haiti, China's representative on the Council evidently calculated that such a decision sets a dangerous precedent. Many thought of Cuba. Indeed, the United States is continuing to blockade Cuba, is nursing the anti-Cuban opposition, and has more than once tried to place Fidel Castro and Raoul Cedras on the same level on the plane of legitimacy and morality. But other analogies also spring to mind: Let us recall, for instance, Gavriil Popov at the gates of the U.S. Embassy in August 1991. Today no one will seek to deny that the CIA rendered Russia's diplomats great services at that time. The public knows somewhat less about the hidden springs in September-October 1993, but everyone who has ears heard the creak of these springs. And now, imagine, a conflagration breaks out somewhere in Ivanovo or Tver Oblast: "We cannot live like that!"—and the present Kremlin authorities are in the soup. And some "friend"—Boris, Vladimir, Yegor—encodes a fiery SOS to his "friend," Bill, John, or Killer. And then there is a vote in the Security Council, volunteers are recruited—and the black wheel [contrasted with the "Red Wheel" of socialism in Solzhenitsyn work of that name], which Aleksandr Isayevich [Solzhenitsyn] simply did not notice, has begun to turn!

An overheated imagination, my opponents will say. But it is nothing of the sort. The Yankees have already rampaged through Maritime Kray—in 1918. And the house still stands in Khabarovsk where the father of the famous Ike Eisenhower lived as an uninvited guest. And I assure you, in their staffs, unlike ours, they remember this well. Also that Alaska was once bought from the Russians not for a pinch of snuff. And now the happy-go-lucky gentlemen are taking aim at Siberia. What Gabriel will refute this? American heavy planes have been opening up our military airfields not just for the delivery of humanitarian aid. And their "peacekeepers" at the Totsk test site are not just there to hand out flowers to our little girls.

There's your negro Titi-Miti from the island of Haiti, as the old ditty goes, o ye of little faith! Incidentally, this negro is more tenacious of life than you and I. Papa and Baby Doc (the dynasty of Haitian tyrants) were unable to do in a half a century what our "democrats" have done. Again you do not believe me? Then let us turn to the results of expert analysis by UNESCO and WHO of the dynamics of the "vitality of peoples" depending on the socioeconomic policy of governments and the ecological situation. Their longevity is determined by a five-point system. Now in 1993 Haiti registered 1.6 points on this scale, Russia just...1.4 points! Just like you, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I would like to hope that the complaint will heal by itself and the black-skinned Titi-Miti will not be for us like the herring that is poked in the snouts of Russia's little Vanyas to quickly teach them the art of survival. But in my opinion, it is better to blunder a million times over than once keep silent when the fate of Russia is at stake...!

'Explanations' Given to PRC on Fishing Incident

LD1409103194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0954 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS—The Russian Foreign Ministry has given explanations to the Chinese side through the Russian embassy in Beijing in connection with the incident in the area of the island of Shikotan, which resulted in the death of two fishermen. This was done in reply to a diplomatic request of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, ITAR-TASS was told today by a high-ranking official of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The incident occurred on September 12, when Russian border guards opened fire on a foreign fishing boat, caught poaching in Russian territorial waters. Two Japanese fishermen were wounded in the same area about a month ago as a result of similar incidents.

According to information, furnished by the Russian border guards who opened fire on the fishing boat "Zhouyu-621" with a crew of 22 men which did not fly any flag, the vessel belongs to the People's Republic of China. And although the Chinese embassy in Moscow and the Russian Foreign Ministry have no definite proofs, a russian diplomat said that it was now "95 per cent" clear that it was a Chinese vessel.

The official of the Russian Foreign Ministry expressed sincere regret in connection with the loss of human lives during the incident. At the same time, he noted that the violators "behaved impudently and did not react to the warnings" of the Russian border guards. According to the diplomat, the incident is now being investigated. Criminal proceedings have been initiated against the arrested poachers from the said fishing boat, which was escorted to Krabovaya Bay on Shikotan Island.

Foreign Ministry on Fatalities

LD1309140594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1154 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Yuriy Kozlov and Andrey Serov]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Mikhail Dimurin, deputy director of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry's information and press department, speaking today on behalf of the ministry, expressed regret over fatalities in the incident near the island of Shikotan. At the same time the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry noted the Russian border guards who detained two foreign vessels which were poaching in Russian territorial waters on Monday acted within their rights.

M. Dimurin said the vessel fired at and holed by the border guards apparently belonged to the People's Republic of China and was called Shau Yu-621. The search group that boarded the vessel found one body and one wounded person, who has since died. There were 22 crewmen of the vessel. The other detained vessel, Kunsur-808, belongs to South Korea. Thirteen [metric] tons of squid were found on the vessel. Both ships were taken by convoy to Krabovaya bay in the island of Shikotan. An investigation into the incident is under way.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed that the vessels strayed into Russia's territorial waters and did not obey orders and signals from the border guards. It carried out dangerous maneuvers and created hazards, and did not respond to warning shots from the Russian vessel. According to the diplomat, in those conditions the border guards "were forced to open fire." We believe that the necessary conclusions should be drawn from what happened in order to avoid similar incidents in the future, M. Dimurin said.

Warns Against Breaking Kuril-Sakhalin Link

LD1309154794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1418 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] If the Kuril Islands cease to be a part of the Sakhalin Region, residents of this region may show behavior changes and Tokyo is likely to "step up action," the Russian Ministry for Nationalities and Regional Policies warned the Sakhalin government in a letter.

On Tuesday Sakhalin's Lieutenant Governor Vladimir Shapoval read out the Ministry's letter to a news conference in the city of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.

Several weeks ago Governor Yevgeniy Nazdratenko of the Primorsky territory proposed that the federal authorities consider the transfer of Sakhalin's Kuril Islands to the control of the Primorsky government which could, in Nazdratenko's view, do more to resolve the islands' social and economic problems.

Shapoval quoted the Ministry as rejecting Nazdratenko's suggestion as "unacceptable." In the Ministry's view, the constituent parts of the Russian Federation must have a say in whether the Kuril Islands are to become part of the Primorsky Territory. The Sakhalin Region and the Primorski Territory differ on the issue.

And, Shapoval said, federal legislation on changing the constitutional status of members of the Russian Federation remain to be drawn up.

Moscow Expresses Regret Over Shooting

LD1309162894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 13 Sep 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov and others]

[Text] A foreign ministry spokesman in Moscow has expressed regret over a shooting incident off Shikotan Island (South Kurils) on Monday which led to the loss of life.

Mikhail Demurin told a news briefing on Tuesday that the Russian coastguard had acted in line with the country's legislation on the protection of Russian territorial waters against foreign poachers.

Two of the crew of an unidentified fishing trawler, possibly Chinese, were killed after it came under fire from a Russian patrol boat.

Talks Held With Japan on Fisheries Cooperation

LD1309215694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2000 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] An exchange of views took place today between the Russian and Japanese sides on the question of the possibility of fisheries cooperation in the zone of the Southern Kuriles.

The conversation which took place in the Russian Foreign Ministry was in the nature of a preliminary general exchange of evaluations with a view to familiarizing one another with the views of each of the sides and did not pursue the aim of reaching any specific accord on official talks in this connection at this stage.

Japan Protests Actions Against Poachers

LD1409064994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0603 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo, 14 Sep—The Japanese Foreign Ministry protested to Russia on 13 September in connection with the strafing and detention by Russian border guards near the South Kuril islands on 12 September of South Korean and Chinese boats poaching seafood. An executive official from the Russian department of the Japanese Foreign Ministry told an ITAR-TASS correspondent of this today.

"Although the boats detained are not Japanese," he noted, "we cannot condone the actions of the Russian authorities. The 'Northern Territories' have belonged to Japan since time immemorial, and therefore, whatever boats fish in that region, if they are strafed and detained by Russian border guards, it is an illegal action."

As the Foreign Ministry official said, Tokyo had appealed to South Korea and China to confirm the nationalities of the fishermen detained, two of whom were killed as a result of the Russian border guards being compelled to use firearms. Seoul had admitted that one of the ships that had turned up near the South Kurils was South Korean. "We have yet to receive a reply from Beijing, but the second ship was probably Chinese," the Japanese diplomat said.

He noted that when "all the details of the incident are fully established, the Japanese Foreign Ministry intends to start examining what actions Tokyo might take with regard to the countries whose fishing boats had invaded waters off the South Kurils. The Foreign Ministry official declined to reply when asked if Japan intended to make official protests to China and South Korea, whose ships have, to follow the "territorial logic" of the Japanese authorities, violated Japan's state border.

Far East Antipoaching Operation Continues

MM1309120194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Boris Reznik: "Poachers on Border Rivers Starting to Shoot"]

[Text] Khabarovsk Kray—Let us render its due to the Far East border guards' resolve. For the second fishing season now together with the militia, the fish protection service, counterintelligence workers, and ecologists they have been carrying out "Zaslon" operations on the border rivers. Recently the Far East Border District troops directorate summed up the results of one stage of the operation and immediately announced the next stage.

It is commonly recognized that "Zaslon" has considerably improved the operational situation on the Amur and the Ussuri and their tributaries but, alas, it has not vanquished poaching. The struggle against the robbers of the rivers has become tougher and keener. In late July blood was shed: During a patrol along the Amur with a border detail Sergey Pogrebnoy, a voluntary people's border militia member from Amurzet village, Jewish Autonomous Oblast, was killed. Chinese poachers set up their nets close to the Russian shore and the propeller of a border cutter became entangled in them. When soldiers with the aid of the voluntary militia member began to try to release the ship and cut the nets Chinese sailed up from the nearby shore and, taking aim from a combat carbine, mortally wounded S. Pogrebnoy.

On the same day a resolute protest was lodged with the Chinese side. The authorities there promised immediately to arrest the murderer and to punish him severely. It has become known to the Russian border representatives that the bandit who shot our militia member has been sentenced to death by firing squad by a Chinese court with a stay of execution for two years.

The shooting of Sergey Pogrebnoy was as it were the climax of the complete anarchy which Chinese poachers have introduced on the border rivers. For many years they have essentially plundered the Amur and Issuri with impunity, demonstrating total disregard for the very concept of a state border. The situation became particularly heated during the sturgeon and Siberian salmon fishing seasons. Many thousands of Chinese motor boats, cutters, and rowing boats went out to fish all along the enormous length of the border rivers. It cost them nothing to slip away from the Russian border detachments beyond the channel along which the border line passes. In recent years our border patrols themselves have been feeble: They have lacked the cutters, fuel and lubricants, and funds to guard the border properly.

With the arrival of Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, the country's new border troops commander in chief, the border districts and detachments received not without skepticism his directive to introduce order at a strike all along Russia's sea and river borders and to carry out the "Putina" and "Zaslon" operations during which the seriousness of our intentions was to be demonstrated. What enormous funds and material resources would be required! Where were they to be found? Obviously Nikolayev proved to the government and the president that expenses on stepping up the border patrols would pay for themselves a hundred times over, not to mention the fact that these measures would strengthen the country's prestige. The border guards got in full everything they asked for.

And now the first stage of the "Zaslon" operation is behind us. It was as it were a rehearsal for the fall Siberian salmon fishing season. I was told by Colonel Aleksandr Filonov, one of those taking part in the operation, that in the course of "Zaslon" 64 border violators were arrested, 61 of them PRC citizens poaching in Russian waters and three of them ours trying to cross to the nearby side illegally. But it is not even a question of the number of those arrested. It has been made clear to our neighbors that henceforth the Russian state border is being guarded under a qualitatively new regime and we do not intend to tolerate flagrant attacks as we did before.

It is important to note the Chinese authorities' response to operation "Zaslon." They have stated that they fully support the Russian side's efforts to introduce order on the border rivers and are prepared to do everything to cooperate. Joint inspections have already been carried out by our border guards and a Chinese border brigade on a sector from the mouth of the Ussuri to the village of Sheremetyevo. It has been decided to make these inspections a regular feature.

The Chinese authorities also promise to punish their citizens more severely for poaching on border rivers. So far as a rule they get off with small fines and there are frequent cases where our border detachments, only a few days after apprehending Chinese poachers and handing them over to their foreign counterparts, catch them again on the river at their criminal business.

In struggling for order on the border the leaders of the Russian border organs often encounter complex and unresolved problems. For instance to this day the demarcation of many sectors of the Russian-Chinese border has not been completed and vexed issues of the ownership of a number of islands have not been resolved....

It seemed to me that "Zaslon" was taking place on unpopulated sectors of the border, since poachers do not like to be observed. But recently "Zaslon" operated almost in the very center of Khabarovsk. A Chinese diesel ship was being unloaded at the city's river port. The ship's captain and his mate under cover of night had cast a net for poaching. The net itself became the catch of our border guards and the lovers of foreign fish had in addition to pay a large fine.

First Joint Rescue Exercise Begins With Japan

LD1409055094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0511 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Grachev]

[Text] Vladivostok September 14 TASS—Russian and Japanese rescue services began on Wednesday the first-ever joint exercise in the Bay of Peter the Great in the Far East.

The exercise involves Russian rescue and cargo ships, as well as the "Alatez" rescue vessel of the Pacific Fleet. The Japanese sent the helicopter-carrying "Tsubaru" patrol ship of the Maritime Security Agency. Besides, the Russian An-24 plane, as well as helicopters from both countries are monitoring the exercise.

Its aim is to master coordination of the rescue services of both countries which are training in conditions close to reality. The role of those in distress is played by Pacific navymen and employees of civilian rescue services.

Japanese Entrepreneurs Hold Talks in Moscow

MM1409081894 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Press Group: "Thorough Japanese Visit Moscow at A. Volskiy's Invitation"]

[Text] The visit of a Keizai Doyukai delegation has ended; the delegation was in Moscow at the invitation of A. Volskiy, president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs [RUIE]. The Japanese association of economic fellow-thinkers Keizai Doyukai is one of the country's four biggest economic organizations. The association is built on the principle of individual membership, and at present some 1,600 entrepreneurs belong to it, representatives of the top management level from approximately 900 major Japanese companies. The association enjoys prestige in Japan's political and business world and has influence on the resolution of problems of the country's economic and social development and the development of trade and economic ties with foreign countries. Keizai Doyukai maintains close business contacts with the RUIE.

During their stay in Moscow the delegation of Japanese entrepreneurs had meetings and talks with I. Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma; O. Soskovets, first vice premier of the Russian Federation Government; A. Volskiy, chairman of the Russian-Japanese Committee for Trade and Economic Cooperation; Vice Premier A. Zaveryukha; and the leadership of the Finance Ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the Central Bank, and research and production organizations and associations.

At the RUIE Experts Institute the Japanese businessmen took part in a seminar during which questions of the economic reforms in Russia and the state and prospects of Russian-Japanese economic ties were discussed.

During the meetings and talks there was a frank exchange of opinions on problems of the development of bilateral economic relations, the creation of the conditions for foreign investments in Russia, possible forms and avenues of Japanese investment in the Russian economy, the wider involvement of Japanese private corporations in entrepreneurial activity on the Russian market, and opportunities for the utilization of the rich Japanese experience in the efficient restructuring of a rigorously centralized and militarized economy in the postwar period.

In addition, concrete problems of bilateral cooperation were broached, such as the development of the Zarubino port and free economic zone and the implementation of the Sakhalin-1 and Sakhalin-2 projects.

Sverdlovsk Proposes Arms Cooperation With China

LD0609161594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1408 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] The administration of the Sverdlovsk region of Russia (Urals Mountains) told Interfax that it proposed to Chinese head of state Jiang Zemin to discuss with the Russian Government the issue of delivery of arms, armored equipment and spare parts to planes produced in the region to China.

Jiang Zemin visited Yekaterinburg (the administrative center of the Sverdlovsk region) as part of his visit to Russia.

During his meeting with the Chinese leader, Sverdlovsk region Governor Aleksey Strakhov proposed that cooperation be developed in the sphere of plant-building, energy and other branches of industry. In particular, they discussed possible participation of industrial enterprises of the Sverdlovsk Region in modernization of a Chinese iron and steel industry plant built with the assistance of Uralmash in the 1950's and in projecting and building electric power stations in China, including nuclear power ones.

It was also proposed that the Uralvagonzavod plant (one of the Sverdlovsk region's biggest enterprises of the military-industrial complex) in Nizhnyy Tagil produce cars for China.

Strakhov proposed that China open its General Consular Office in Yekaterinburg and that permanent air routes be organized between the region and Beijing and Harbin in order to implement projects more efficiently.

Jiang Zemin said that he opts for a "very active approach to these issues."

After the visit of Jiang Zemin to Yekaterinburg, Chinese Ambassador to Russia Wang Jinqing remained in the region in order to examine the proposals of the Sverdlovsk region administration on cooperation.

The Chinese delegation led by Jiang Zemin headed for Kiev today.

'Arafat To Make Brief Stopover in Moscow 14 Sep

LD1309173994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1712 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Sep—Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, will make a brief stop in Moscow on Wednesday [14 September]. An ITAR- TASS correspondent was told this this evening by a spokesman of the Russian Foreign Ministry's information and press department. The Palestinian leader will have talks with Igor Ivanov, first deputy minister of foreign affairs of Russia.

Meets Deputy Foreign Minister

LD1409083494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0730 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Sep—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in route to Tashkent from Oslo, made a brief stop today at Moscow's Vnukovo-2 airport. 'Arafat met with Igor Ivanov, first deputy minister for foreign affairs, while at the airport.

Praises Moscow's Role in Talks

LD1409104294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0946 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Sep—The forthcoming Washington meeting between Russian President Yeltsin and President Clinton should serve to reinforce the role of these two powers as cosponsors of the Middle East peace process. PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stated this during a brief morning meeting with Igor Ivanov, first deputy minister of foreign affairs.

'Arafat told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that he had high regards of Moscow's role in settling the situation in the Middle East. 'Arafat welcomed efforts which Moscow, as a cosponsor, had made and continues to make to establish lasting peace in the region.

'Arafat said that the Middle East issue would be one of the key issues at the upcoming Russian-American summit. Ivanov supported this view.

Contact Group Urges Further Sanctions

LD1309220094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2058 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations, 14 Sep—Sergey Lavrov, Russian permanent envoy to the United Nations, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent on Tuesday that the international "Contact Group" on a Bosnian settlement has informed the Security Council that specific steps aimed at appropriately taking into account the new situation in the peace process have been agreed by the group.

The new situation regarding a Bosnian settlement, the Russian envoy pointed out, arose in connection with Belgrade's position on the "Contact Group's" plan for territorial demarcation and in connection with the decision of the Yugoslav authorities to close the border with the territories under control of the Bosnian Serbs to all except humanitarian freight.

The "Contact Group" plans, in the very near future, to submit to the Security Council a draft resolution, suspending a number of sanctions against Yugoslavia. In the event of further progress, it is envisaged that additional measures will be examined encouraging Belgrade's line of active cooperation with the international community in the search for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. At the same time a draft resolution is to be submitted to the Security Council, on stepping up sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs in connection with the fact that they declined to give their agreement to the plan of territorial demarcation. The amendment of specific formulations is continuing, S. Lavrov announced.

'Sources' Say Churkin To Become NATO, Belgium Envoy

LD1309165794 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Excerpts] One hundred and thirty-five observers are to monitor the implementation of the blockade declared by Serbia vis-a-vis the Bosnian Serbs' territory. [passage omitted]

In the meantime, a reshuffle is under way in the Russian diplomatic corps immediately related to the Bosnian settlement. At a meeting in Geneva today, Russia was represented by Aleksey Nikoforov. He is the most obvious candidate to replace Vitaliy Churkin, who recently carried out the duties not only of Russian deputy foreign minister, but also of President Yeltsin's special envoy to the Balkans.

Some sources say that Churkin will take the post of Russia's ambassador to Belgium and to NATO as early as this month.

The white-haired youth, as Churkin is described in diplomatic circles, has raised his profile due to his role in the Balkans. They say that Foreign Minister Kozyrev himself was jealous of his success. However, Kozyrev has not had open disagreements with his deputy. Churkin's appointment to Brussels can hardly be considered an exile.

Kozyrev Meets Kuwaiti Envoy, Reaffirms Iraq Stance

LD1309172994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Reports by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev confirmed today that Moscow does not intend to change its position on the necessity for implementing the resolutions of the UN Security Council by Iraq which provide for recognizing sovereignty of Kuwait and its border demarcated by the United Nations and investigating the cases of missing Kuwaiti citizens.

Kozyrev said when meeting with Kuwaiti Special Envoy, Information Minister Sa'ud Nasir Sa'ud al-Sabah that a significant progress had recently been achieved in implementation of the decisions of the UN Security Council on disarmament and control over military programs of Iraq. Kozyrev said he believes that this achievement will be the starting point for Baghdad moving towards cooperation with the United Nations.

Kozyrev denied that Moscow carries out dual diplomacy. He said that some politicians try to confront Russia's policy towards Iraq and Kuwait. Kozyrev said that the efforts of Moscow to influence the policy of Iraq making it seek stability are in the interests of the whole region, including Kuwait.

Sa'ud Nasir Sa'ud al-Sabah highly appraised the contribution of Russia to the international efforts for normalizing the situation in the Persian Gulf Region.

Russia and Kuwait agreed to coordinate further moves in this sphere.

Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz Cited on Russia Ties

MM1409105594 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "'We Have Always Wanted Cooperation'"]

[Text] The Iraqi Embassy circulated a text of Vice Premier Tariq 'Aziz's reply to a SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA article of 8 September 1994. In it the vice premier protested the statements to the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry which have been ascribed to him, stressing that throughout the year he has not met with Russian journalists and has not accorded a single interview to any Russian newspaper.

The Iraqi vice premier would like to state once again that he values highly the Russian Foreign Ministry's position on the question of settling the Iraqi problem and attaches tremendous significance to the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. Understanding of the need to restore and develop Russian-Iraqi ties in mutual interests strengthened further after the meeting between Tariq 'Aziz and Andrey Kozyrev, head of the Russian foreign policy department, in St. Petersburg. The Iraqi leadership and people value highly the positive position espoused by the Russian side and President Boris Yeltsin personally, in particular their sincere efforts to normalize relations between our countries as well as the steps aimed at lifting the economic blockade of Iraq and putting an end to its people's further sufferings, the republic's vice premier stressed in conclusion.

Kozyrev Assesses Relations With South Africa

LD1309105394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0925 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Valeriy Sevryukov]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Sep—The present meeting between the Russian and the South African foreign ministers is taking place in new conditions when national unity and stability are gaining strength in South Africa. This was stated today by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev prior to his talks with his South African counterpart, Alfred Nzo, who is in Moscow on a four-day official visit.

Swift fundamental changes in democracy, national unity and freedom, which are taking place in South Africa, are also typical of Russia, the Russian minister said. These concepts are bringing our states, which are developing in practically the same direction, closer to each other. The existence of a fairly firm basis makes it possible to bring bilateral relations, which are based on long- standing traditions and common outlook, to a qualitatively new level.

The Russian minister expressed the hope that the present meeting would be an important stage in preparations for the visit to our country by President Nelson Mandela, who is known in Russia as a prominent political figure.

For his part, Nzo thanked Russia and its people for their support of the efforts by the peoples of southern Africa to develop democracy and strengthen peace in the region. He also said that the visit provides an excellent opportunity for a deep exchange of opinions not just on issues of bilateral relations but also on problems of general human nature.

Kozyrev, Nzo Sign Joint Protocol

LD1309181094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 13 Sep 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo signed a protocol on consultations between the foreign ministries of the two countries in Moscow today.

The joint communique on the results of the first official visit of the South African foreign minister to Russia said that this protocol is expected to lay the foundation for regular dialogues on key international issues.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said before his meeting with Nzo that Russia and South Africa develop following approximately the same direction and their development lays the foundation for bringing bilateral relations into a quite new level.

Kozyrev said he is sure that the present visit of Nzo to Russia will mark a significant phase of this way and will be the most important phase of the preparations for the visit of South African President Nelson Mandela to Russia "which Russia and the whole world know as an outstanding politician of our time."

Kozyrev said that the present visit of Nzo continues bilateral contacts but within the context of a new situation when South Africa aims at achieving stability and national accord. "These terms themselves bring us closer. Russia also sees quick radical changes towards democracy and achieving a larger national unity and stability," Kozyrev said.

Nzo said in response that his visit to Russia is a wonderful opportunity for discussing with the Russian leaders both issues of bilateral relations and humanitarian issues on the whole.

Nzo stressed that his visit is the "first after the era of democracy established in South Africa." He said he would like to thank the Russian people for its help to the South African people in struggle for establishment of the democratic regime in South Africa.

Nzo transferred to Kozyrev the private message of Nelson Mandela for Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The communique said that the main purpose of the visit of Nzo to Moscow was to prepare for the coming official visit of Mandela to Russia. Sources close to Kozyrev told Interfax that Mandela is expected to visit Russia in mid-October or late October, 1994.

During the meetings between Nzo and the Russian leaders the parties said they are satisfied with the successful establishment of Russian-South African relations and confirmed that they are ready to continue developing relations in the interests of the both countries. Russia and South Africa also coordinated a number of mutually beneficial projects in the sphere of economic, trade and scientific-technical cooperation.

Kozyrev told Nzo that Russia highly appraises the activities of the South African government of national unity after the first democratic elections in the country. Russia wished to South Africa to achieve further progress while implementing the program for reconstruction and development.

Nzo said that the South African government supports the reforms in Russia.

The meeting between the two foreign ministers showed that the positions of Russia and South Africa on the majority of the pressing international problems are close. South Africa emphasized the important role of Russia as the permanent member of the UN Security Council for maintaining peace and democracy in the world.

Further on Protocol Signing

LD1309141294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1325 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Valeriy Sevryukov]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—Talks between the foreign ministers of Russia and the South African Republic were rounded off here today by the signing of a protocol on consultations between the foreign ministries of the two countries. This document is expected to provide the basis for a regular and conprehensive dialogue on key international problems.

Preparations for the Russo-South African summit meeting—the forthcoming official visit to Russia by South African President Nelson Mandela—were in the focus of South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo's talks in Moscow. Mandela is expected to come to Moscow at the end of october, ITAR-TASS was told by Galina Sidorova, political adviser of the Russian Foreign Minister.

Touching on the results of the negotiations, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his South African counterpart Alfred Nzo noted the successful development of bilateral relations in various spheres and acknowledged their readiness to further develop them in the interests of both states and peoples. It was noted that a regular political dialogue was already organised and a long-range legal basis for bilateral relations was created. The sides have reached agreement on several mutually profitable projects in the sphere of economic, commercial, scientific, and technological cooperation.

During the discussion of key international problems, the sides have reaffirmed the identity or proximity of Russia's and South Africa's stand on most of them, which allows the two countries to cooperate actively and fruitfully on the international arena, including in the United

Nations. The South African side noted Russia's important role as a world power and a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council in the effort to ensure international peace and democracy.

The sides have also noted a definite measure of similarity between the domestic political situations in Russia and in the Republic of South Africa, explained by their transition to democracy. Kozyrev and Nzo stressed the dedication of their countries to the ongoing deep-going democratic reforms and to the observance of the fundamental rights and freedoms of their citizens.

The Russian side expressed satisfaction with the successful actions of the South African national unity government since the time of the first democratic elections in the Republic of South Africa. It wished the South African government further progress in its efforts to implement its programme for reconstruction and development.

On behalf of the South African government, Nzo expressed support to the Russian reforms, noting Russia's historic role in the effort to scrap apartheid and create a democratic society in South Africa.

The South African foreign minister handed to Kozyrev a personal message from South African President Nelson Mandela to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Military Denies Reports on Abkhaz Killings

LD1309200394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] ITAR-TASS has reported that two Russian officers of the peacekeeping forces were killed in an ambush in Abkhazia on Monday evening. Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev declared that the toughest sanctions will be imposed on the side that carried out the provocation. We contacted our correspondent in Georgia to find out further details, but what a surprise we had when he came forward with a refutation. Nikolay Mamulashvili reports:

[Mamulashvili] The situation in the Russian peacekeepers' deployment zone along both sides of the River Inguri in the Georgian-Abkhazian confrontation zone is stable. I learned this at the press center of the headquarters of the Russian Group of Forces in the Transcaucasus on 13 September.

Certain media have disseminated reports that a group of unknown people fired on a patrol car of the blue helmets in a settlement in Gali rayon in Abkhazia on 12 September. This resulted in Russian officers being killed and wounded. Their names and ranks were cited as well. Furthermore, the Abkhazian side allegedly stated that the attack was carried out by a Georgian sabotage group which was brought to Gali especially for the purpose.

Late on 13 September, in a conversation with me, Colonel Vladimir Drobin, first deputy chief of the headquarters of the Russian Group of Forces in the Transcaucasus, categorically refuted this report, stating that it was sheer fabrication; he said no one attacked or killed anyone. Drobin noted that surnames as well as everything else could have been invented.

Drobin described the overall situation in the region as stable, but noted, to tell the truth, that the protest action staged in the locality of Rukhi by refugees, who are demanding that the process for the return of people to Gali rayon be speeded up and who blocked the bridge on the River Inguri, is to a certain extent complicating the actions of the Russian peacekeepers.

Grachev Sends Team to Abkhazia

LD1309134594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1210 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Excerpt] Nizhniy Novgorod, 13 Sep—Army General Pavel Grachev so far has no information about who organized the provocative murder of two Russian officers in Abkhazia on 12 September at the populated centre of Nabakevi in Galskiy Rayon. Speaking to journalists in Nizhniy Novgorod today, the Defense Minister said that a group of generals and officers headed by Deputy Defense Minister Georgiy Kondratyev had gone to the area where the two Russian officers were murdered. The group will be investigating carefully the circumstances of the tragic incident.

"The toughest measures" will be taken against whoever committed the provocation, the minister said. [passage omitted]

Grachev Comments on Abkhaz Killings

LD1309145794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1329 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told INTERFAX Tuesday that he would "impose the toughest sanctions" on the party responsible for the death of two Russian army officers and the suffering of yet another officer in the Galski District of Abkhazia.

Grachev was not yet sure whether it was Georgian or Abkhazian forces who shot the Russian officers. Neither did he know who planned the assault on September 12.

To investigate the incident, Grachev's deputy Colonel-General Georgiy Kondratiyev and several other officers, as well as part of Airborne Regiment 345, with base in Gudauta, flew to Abkhazia.

Grachev was sure that the investigation would be carried out as efficiently as possible and those responsible for the incident of September 12 would be found.

Senior Lieutenants Valeriy Kokalevich and Sergey Bulatov were killed when unidentified gunmen opened fire on their car. Senior Lieutenant Chuguyev was wounded.

Kokalevich and Bulatov are the first Russian officers to have been killed in the area of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict since the Russian peacekeeping contingent entered Abkhazia, some two months ago.

The contingent's chief-of-staff Yuriy Kozlov told INTERFAX Tuesday that witnesses heard the gunmen shout orders in the Megreli language.

Addressing preparations for President Yeltsin's visit to the United States, Grachev said no decisions would be made on matters of "purely military interest". "Russia and the United States had a program for long-term cooperation in the military field," he said.

According to Grachev, Yeltsin was planning to focus, primarily, on the political angle of various issues.

As for the developments in Tajikistan, Grachev felt that as things were organized now the Russian border guards were unable to contain the Afghan-based forces. Russia's 201 Motorized Rifle Division offer them fire and air support but report to a commander of its own, he pointed out. In Grachev's view, there would be more stability in the area if all Russian forces operated under one command.

The incorporation of the border guards into the Russian army would make sense or, Grachev said, the border guards must be "restructured into border troops". "The border guards have nothing but armored personnel carriers and other means of transportation, and small arms although the situation in Tajikistan is very complicated and is likely to aggravate because the irreconcilable opposition will never make peace with the Dushanbe government," Grachev said.

Grachev is visiting units of the Moscow Military District. On Tuesday he visited the tank and artillery divisions which used to be part of the Western Army Group till 1993 and early 1994 and are currently based in the Nizhegorodskiy Region of Russia. Grachev inspected the construction of housing facilities for the divisions' officers.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Inter-Tajik Talks

LD1309182594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The main political task of the inter-Tajik talks is to sign a cease-fire agreement between Dushanbe and the Tajik opposition, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin said at a briefing in Moscow today.

Demurin said the Tajik leadership had recently carried out several important practical moves on strengthening confidence and creating the conditions for the opposition to take part in the political reforms.

Demurin said that the UN, the CSCE and a number of countries concerned approve of the moves made by Dushanbe on the whole. He stressed that Moscow continues to actively contribute to the inter- Tajik dialogue. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev and the Tajik opposition leaders, Said Abdullo Nuri, Akbar Turajonzoda and others, met in Tehran for this purpose, Demurin added.

Demurin said that according to information which Moscow has, the Tajik opposition is ready to continue dialog and move toward signing a cease-fire agreement.

Trade Officials Prepare DPRK Commission Talks

LD1309125594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1244 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS corespondent Aleksandr Valiyev]

[Text] Pyongyang September 13 TASS—Russian and North Korean foreign trade experts have held three-day consultations to agree consider an agenda, guidelines and questions to be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of their joint intergovernmental commission for trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation.

The commission is due to meet in Pyongyang in the last ten days of October. The Russian delegation left for home today.

Before departure, deputy head of the chief department for trade and economic cooperation with Asian Pacific countries of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of the Russian Federation Vladimir Fitin, who is also executive secretary of the Russian group, told ITAR-TASS that "talks in Pyongyang were a success: they were held in a constructive atmosphere and were very well organised". Both sides reconfirmed their interest in the development of cooperation. The joint commission will concentrate on boosting bilateral economic ties in the short term in trade, interaction in the industrial field and the energy sector, as well as on further work of the enterprises built with the help of the Soviet Union.

According to Vladimir Fitin, the sides will focus on the possibilities of cooperation in the directions of priority interest to North Korea, and solutions will be found proceeding from Russia's potential for each specific project.

Fitin said one important problem was North Korea's debt to Russia, and it would certainly come up for discussion at commission meetings. The Russian official did not rule out that the commission would also discuss the participation of the Russian Federation in the development of a free economic zone in the area where the Russian, North Korean and Chinese borders meet.

According to him, the forthcoming meeting of the commission will proceed normally, judging from the results of the Pyongyang consultations.

Protocol of Intent Signed on Air Trainer Project

MM1309130594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Valentin Rudenko: "Farnborough-94: Entering the World Market Via International Cooperation"]

[Text] London—At the time of writing, the business section of the "Farnborough-94" aerospace salon was at its zenith. The timetable of talks and business meetings is so full that the delegation leaders have no time left to visit the exhibition stands or demonstration flights. Their main attention is focused on establishing contacts and discussing prospects for possible cooperation.

As is well known, negotiations are conducted behind closed doors and it is by no means always possible to obtain information about their results. But even from what was disclosed at the press conference held for journalists accredited to the air show by Anatoliy Bratukhin, leader of the Russian government delegation and deputy chairman of the State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry, Colonel General of Aviation Petr Deynekin, commander in chief of the Russian Air Force, the general designers of aviation and space firms, and the leaders of series-production plants, it can be concluded that foreign countries are displaying by no means idle interest in our aviation equipment and state-of-the-art technologies. Many leading world aviation firms such as General Electric, Snecma, Pratt and Whitney, and Collins have made Russian aircraft builders offers of cooperation in developing and producing state-of-the-art models of aviation equipment.

The leaders of the "MIG" aviation scientific and industrial complex, the Moscow Aviation Production Association (MAPO), the State Scientific Research Institute for Aviation Systems, the "Rosvooruzheniye" state company for the export and import of arms and military equipment, and the French firms GRTS and Sextant have signed a protocol of intent on setting up an international organization empowered to implement a program for the development, production, and export of the MIG-AT/UTS international and Russian designs of training aircraft.

This aircraft is being developed in competition with other aviation firms. Only two design bureaus can currently aspire to win it—Mikoyan and Yakovlev. As we have already reported, the final choice will be made on the basis of flight tests.

According to the protocol, the sides have agreed over the course of six months to develop the structure for this cooperation and to construct a flying prototype of the MIG-AT/UTS training aircraft, which it is planned to show at the next international air salon at Le Bourget.

It is important to note that the Russian Air Forces also badly need this kind of training aircraft today. The participants in the program believe that, thanks to international cooperation, it will be possible to attract additional investment, which in turn will make it possible to implement the MIG-AT/UTS trainer program for the Air Force within a short time.

Interparliamentary Conference Opens in Copenhagen

LD1309223194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0908 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Nikolay Vukolov]

[Text] Copenhagen, 13 Sep—Vladimir Podoprigov, chairman of the Committee for International Affairs of the Federation Council of Russia's Federal Assembly, stated to the ITAR-TASS correspondent in an interview that it is extremely important to develop cooperation between the interparliamentary assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Interparliamentary Union. He arrived in the Danish capital as a member of the delegation of Russian parliamentarians to take part in the work of the 92d conference of the Interparliamentary Union.

At the current conference, questions will be discussed such as the development of national institutions and organizations for the defense of human rights, for social development, the struggle against poverty and indigence.

For Russia and its legislators these subjects are of special significance. Thus, a commission has been set up in Russia for human rights under the Russian president, which is headed by Sergey Kovalev, and our Russian delegation here in Copenhagen intends to focus a great deal of attention on this subject, Podoprigov stressed.

Also important for the Russian delegation is an issue like the development of a system of civic monitoring of the Armed Forces, taking into account the fact that at the present time the question of a professional army is being pointedly discussed in Russia. This subject is a very topical one now that Russia has signed the document on joining the "Partnership for Peace" program, Podoprigov noted.

The subject of social protection for citizens, providing them with normal living conditions, and the struggle against indigence and poverty is to the point and urgent for Russia.

All these problems will be discussed at the conference, both during the general discussions as well as during the bilateral meetings and conversations with foreign parliamentarians. Then the relevant information will be prepared, of which the Federation Council deputies and the State Duma will be informed. In a word, the process of Russian parliamentarians actively participating in the activity of the interparliamentary union is going ahead, Podoprigov said in conclusion.

Delegate Wants Momentum of Test Ban Talks Maintained

MM1409095194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov for KRASNAYA ZVEZDA: "Universal Nuclear Test Ban: Light at End of Tunnel"]

[Text] "A reliable ban for nuclear tests." That was the theme of the talks that have been under way since January within the framework of the UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. Its latest annual session ended the other day. The results have been unanimously assessed here as a major leap forward in the elaboration of a universal nuclear test ban. The session participants—representatives of 27 countries including Russia—have succeeded in elaborating a "transitional draft" of the treaty. Although there are still many contentious problems, the importance of the document, this ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by UN Deputy Secretary General Vladimir Petrovskiy, is that "all the main provisions of the future agreement have for the first time been set out on paper in a form approximating to a treaty."

The work is "moving ahead successfully," the Russian delegation believes. Its representative Boris Kvok stated in an interview that "the talks have momentum—that is the main thing. There is a basis for discussion. Now it is important not to slacken the pace."

We would recall that the debates on a ban on nuclear explosions have been under way for some decades. An important landmark was the 1963 Moscow treaty banning nuclear testing in three media. At the start of the current session the Russian Federation delegation proposed that this and other international documents were a basis for resolving the issue of the "coverage" of the future agreement, which should also include a ban on underground explosions. Moscow advocates an unlimited-duration and nondiscriminatory treaty, with all its participants having equal rights and obligations. An effective mechanism of international verification is needed, and the agreement should cover not only the nuclear countries but those capable of developing [sozdat] nuclear weapons. In order to influence those who might breach the treaty, the severest measures will have to be envisaged—up to and including sanctions in line with the UN Charter.

Yet the "coverage" question is one of the most difficult at the conference. In particular, there is a dispute about whether or not to ban nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. The question of verification of the future agreement is also proving difficult to resolve. Russia agrees with seismic and hydroacoustic methods, and with measurements of radioactivity in the atmosphere. "But we are trying to explain to our partners," B. Kvok noted, "that monitoring must be effective and economical. Given the situation in our country, we cannot accept a treaty which will be a heavy burden on the economy."

All these problems will be discussed this fall within the framework of the special committee for nuclear explosions. As of January 1995 the search for solutions will be taken up by the next annual session of the Conference on Disarmament.

Progress will largely depend on the collaboration between Russia and the United States. It turns out that the two countries' approaches to the problem of a nuclear test ban largely coincide. This is shown by an interview given to this ITAR-TASS correspondent by John Holum, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

In his opinion, the prospects for talks on a universal nuclear test ban are excellent. The talks held here with the delegations—including all the members of the big five nuclear powers—have been very encouraging. Although Kholam did not deny that there are differences with Moscow on "one or two issues," he believes that in broad terms Russia is working very constructively and that both our countries are trying to achieve as much progress as possible.

Chernomyrdin Foresees No More 'Bloodshed'

LD1409062594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0604 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Temnenkov]

[Text] Bonn September 14 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said in an interview with the German WDR Company that in connection with growing unemployment in Russia one can expect more political tension in the country, but there will be no escalation similar to what happened last autumn. "There will be no repetition," Chernomyrdin said.

He pointed out that there are discontented people in Russia and those who would like to put this discontent in motion. "However, I do not think that our people will let this happen. This is not the path to follow, since nothing can be attained in this way, Chernomyrdin said, emphasising that "there will be no more turmoils, especially such as bloodshed."

Speed of Withdrawal from Germany Viewed

MM1409103194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Sep 94 First Edition p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Batygin: "Last Battle of the Cold War"]

[Text] The fanfares at Belorusskiy station have died away, the ceremonial meeting of the Berlin brigade in Moscow has been photographed and filmed. Our troops' 50 years in Europe have ended which means that World War II and with it the cold war have finally ended.

That is the overall assessment in the world of recent events in Berlin connected with the withdrawal of the Western Group of Forces, to which I was a witness. The

Germans had the tact to organize the Russians' farewell without the slightest trace of triumphing or unconcealed joy.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA has devoted enough space to the "time bombs" laid by the former leaders of the USSR. For tens of thousands of our compatriots, officers and ensigns, adults and children, the hasty political decisions have resulted in personal tragedy—returning from Germany essentially to empty spots.

Yes, Germany has paid 8.35 billion marks from the federal budget for the construction of 45,000 apartments for Russian servicemen who have returned home. According to the German Ministry of Finance, payment for transporting the Russian troops cost a further billion and 200 million marks have already been spent on retraining our officers (this mainly involves courses in marketing, the basic principles of commercial accounting and the market economy, enterprise management, and so forth).

But the pedantic Germans who know how to count money will not be the losers either. At a reception at the Russian Embassy one of the guests cited another figure: 70,000 apartments. That is the quantity of housing left by the Western Group of Forces in its former garrisons which German families will receive after modernization.

Germany is our first helper and chief creditor—like a zealous, experienced accountant it is now counting up the economic advantages connected with the use of the land plots formerly occupied by the Russian troops. In October 1990 immediately after the signing of the treaty on the final settlement with regard to Germany (in other words, on the country's unification) the "territory" of the Western Group of Forces extended over an area of 240,000 hectares. The largest area was on the federal lands of Brandenburg and Saxony while a smaller part—in Thuringia and Mecklenburg—was in West Germany. Now, after our "departure," the governments of the lands of Brandenburg, Saxony, and Thuringia have agreed with the central authorities' proposal to take on free of charge those lands of the Western Group of Forces which are of no interest to the federation. In all they have received 118,000 hectares. The quality of a considerable part of these lands, specialists believe, makes it possible to use them in the very near future for the construction of apartment blocks.

In handing over rights of ownership to the federal lands, the center has made a substantial contribution to their economic development. In turn the federation has retained land plots which are particularly contaminated: Their area is equal to thousands of hectares.

With regard to the "contaminated" land I permit myself to make a small stipulation based on personal experience when I was deputy commander of a platoon in a missile brigade stationed near Dresden. It is entirely true that in 49 years the Russians have utterly spoiled the soil of the German fatherland with their tank tracks, solar oil, and chemical smoke. But let us dig a little deeper—literally—and we will be convinced that under the layer of Russian solar oil and gasoline we shall discover just as thick a layer, or even thicker, left by the Wehrmacht soldiers. Thus, in my unit, vehicles stood in the same parking spots where the famous "Adolf Hitler" division was stationed for many years.

...The festive atmosphere which reigned on the last day of summer in Berlin and on Saturday in Moscow has somehow driven back another problem—the presence on German territory of the armed forces of its NATO allies: the United States, Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Canada. Having carefully re-read the texts of the speeches by Boris Yeltsin and Helmut Kohl at the 31 August ceremonies I did not find in them a single mention of the fate of the allies' military contingents. There is a special attitude toward them in Germany—a tolerant, respectful attitude—and you do not hear of any pressure here.

Last Thursday in Berlin in front of Charlottenburg castle, in the Western part of the city, ceremonies took place to mark the withdrawal of the last soldiers of our allies in the anti-Hitler coalition. The leaders of the United States, Britain, and France arrived to see off their troops. The climax of the celebrations was an allied contingent taking part in a parade before the eyes of 20,000 spectators and FRG Chancellor H. Kohl, French president F. Mitterrand, British Prime Minister J. Major, and U.S. representatives W. Christopher and W. Perry.

Yes, Berlin is now German, there are no more "foreign" military commandant's offices, air bases, or armored subunits here. But in contrast to the Russian troops, who left Berlin in full, the U.S., French, and British units remain on German soil. It is simply that they have moved "into the sticks" until they receive new orders. When the orders will come no one yet knows. Talk of partnership and cooperation during B. Yeltsin's visit to Berlin was does not sound entirely sincere coming from the lips of his German counterparts when you remember the presence in the German fatherland of 250,000 U.S. soldiers and officers, 70,000 British, 34,000 French, 5,700 Dutch, and 7,900 Canadians. These countries' governments have stated the gradual reduction of the numerical strength of their armed forces on German territory. As we have mentioned, this reduction has already begun but in contrast to our "departure" it is proceeding without haste to the benefit of short-term advantage. The new deployment areas are prepared carefully to receive the units which are being withdrawn.

Berliners waving their handkerchieves on the morning of 1 September at Lichtenberg station as they saw off the Russian echelon breathed a sigh of relief. They seem to be far less concerned with the problem of the servicemen dressed in foreign uniforms and stationed in Germany. The main thing is that the Russians have left. Nonetheless Russia has remained on German soil, bringing freedom from the fascist plague to the people of Germany and not only to them. It has remained in the monuments, the obelisks over the tombs of the Soviet soldiers, in the memory of those who do not want to change history yet again. The grief remains.

"We should have withdrawn our troops in the same way the Americans are reducing their presence: At the rate of five battalions a year," Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said in Berlin.

"Then how many years would it take us to leave Germany?" I asked the minister.

"About 15 years."

The last battle of the Cold War has ended. In whose favor? Decide for yourselves.

Minority Rights To Be Focus in Council of Europe

LD1209202294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1546 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Sep—Russia reckons on joining the Council of Europe in the first half of next year, where it intends to pay priority attention to issues of protecting the rights of ethnic minorities. Andrey Kozyrev, Russian minister of foreign affairs, said this today at a meeting with leaders of this authoritative intergovernmental organization.

A wide range of Russian-European relations were discussed during his conversation with Stanislav Daskalov, the head of the Bulgarian Foreign Policy Department and chairman of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, and Daniel Tarschys, the prominent Swedish politician and scholar and the Council's secretary general, who have arrived in the Russian capital. Judging from the words of the head of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Russian side believes that cooperation in protecting human rights, in particular in the Baltic states, will occupy a special place in future full ties. Now that Russian troops have left these countries, noted Andrey Kozyrev, issues of human rights and protecting the interests of ethnic minorities can be discussed without the distraction of political problems.

Our stance on guaranteeing the rights of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic, Galina Sidorova, the minister's political adviser, noted to journalists, has been met with understanding by the European colleagues. Joining the Council of Europe will give us the opportunity to raise these issues there and jointly work toward solutions.

The adviser to the head of Russian diplomacy singled out the problem of coordinating legislation from other points on the agenda of relations [sentence as received]. The imperfect nature of Russian legislation is hindering the solving of problems and preventing the lives of Russian citizens from normalizing more quickly. Integration of the Russian Federation in the structures of the Council of Europe will help the experience of the continent's countries to be used to greater effect.

Talks Held With Indian Trade Commission

LD1309103694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0933 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Yuriy Kozmin and Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—India and Russia must make up for what they have already lost in their bilateral economic cooperation and to make the most effective use of their potentials for its promotion. This idea keynoted the deliberations at the meeting of the inter-governmental Russo-Indian commission for commercial, economic, scientific, and technological cooperation, which opened today at "President-Hotel" here. The co-chairman of the commission from the Russian side is Vice-Premier Yuriy Yarov, and from the Indian side—Minister for Trade Pranab Mukerjee, who arrived in Moscow at the head of a representative delegation today.

According to the Indian minister, the all-round development of commercial relations with Russia is among the priority directions of India's external economic policy. He disclosed before his trip to Moscow that the Indian Government was examining the possibility of setting up a special state fund, called upon to help Indian companies engage in export trade with Russia and interested in launching joint ventures.

Mukerjee specially noted that the current meeting of the commission would discuss the question of settling India's debt to Russia. It now amounts to about 360 billion Indian rupees or about 11.6 billion U.S. dollars. Furthermore, it will discuss problems linked with the expansion of Russian investment in the Indian national economy, the promotion of cooperation in the ferrous and non-ferrous metals industry, coal mining, and power generation.

The commission is to discuss the results of a whole line of meetings in working panels, devoted to concrete areas of cooperation, which were held both in Moscow and in New Delhi. The documents and recommendations they had adopted provided the skeleton for the draft protocol on commercial, economic, scientific, and technological cooperation that is expected to be signed during the current meeting.

Indian Ambassador to Russia Ranendra Sen described the commission's meeting as "a very important event". Interviewed by ITAR-TASS, he noted that the meeting was intended to find the "bottlenecks" in Russo-Indian economic cooperation and to determine what Moscow and New Delhi could do to eliminate them. "We expect very much from the commission's work," the ambassador said. "It is our task to put our cooperation on a more stable and predictable basis so that it would develop dynamically, would be viable for a long time to come."

Ranendra Sen specially stressed the importance of establishing direct contacts between Indian and Russian businessmen.

International Rescue Work Exercises Held

MM1309103394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 5

[Report by Valeriy Yakov: "Disaster They Knew About in Advance"]

[Text] A large methanol explosion at a very large gas processing complex took place in the middle of the working day. The workers' shift was left under the ruins of the depot premises. At the alarm signal the local emergency services were brought in and in addition detachments of rescue workers arrived by air from Moscow and Austria....

All this was just one episode in the international exercises by rescuers organized for the first time in Russia by the Ministry for Emergency Situations.

Every year 250-300 million people become victims of disasters in the world. The problem of rendering aid to people in emergencies has long since ceased to be the domestic affair of those countries in which the people live. And it is no accident that recently international cooperation has been activated so markedly in the field of humanitarian actions in emergency responses to large-scale disasters in any part of the planet.

An analysis of the statistics carried out by the UN humanitarian issues department shows that the picture of natural disasters and their consequences has changed drastically. In previous decades there was no marked growth of any kind in the number of disasters. But in recent years there has been a constant increase in their numbers and the scale of their consequences and the number of victims are increasing markedly, particularly in manmade disasters. Only joint and prompt efforts by the rescue services of various states can reduce the dimensions of the consequences and effectively eliminate them.

Under the leadership of Sergey Shoygu, Russian minister for emergency situations, during the exercises held on the basis of the Aksarayskiy gas processing complex near Astrakhan joint actions were rehearsed by various services and departments in eliminating major accidents at potentially dangerous production facilities. Rescuers from the Central Mobile Air Detachment, civil defense troops from the North Caucasus regional center, departmental rescue formations, and a detachment of rescue workers from Austria took part in the exercises. Also present were observers from all countries of the CIS and many states of the world—Britain, France, Italy, the United States, Sweden, Norway, Hungary, and Poland....

Perhaps one of the most attentive observers was Michael Elmquist [name as published], coordinating officer at the UN humanitarian issues department. In the recent past, as a high-ranking NATO staffer, he kept track of the state and potential of the Soviet Union's civil defense troops. Despite the special secrecy which surrounded any information about these troops at the time, Michael had a very good knowledge of their true and completely lamentable state. And his assessments differed substantially from the official opinion of the Civil Defense troops in the Soviet Union. The earthquake in Armenia showed all the unfoundedness of our civil defense and, alas, the accuracy of NATO's forecasts. Many subsequent accidents merely added to the negative assessments of the troops intended to save the population under wartime conditions but unable to render effective aid in peacetime. Only after civil defense switched to the subordination of the Ministry for Emergency Situation were its forces and funds targeted at rendering aid to people in any accidents and disasters.

Plenty of these imaginary accidents were created during the exercises. There was a powerful leak of toxic gas at a production facility and workers had to be evacuated immediately and after that the area had to be repaired and decontaminated.

Later a gas pipeline burst in the steppe and the emergency services efficiently ignited the accumulated cloud and repaired the gas pipeline after it had been burned off.

An hour later it emerged that because of a big leak there was a threat to the inhabitants of Molodezhnyy settlement, which is indeed in a potentially dangerous zone—close to the complex. The defense system went to work and the inhabitants were swiftly moved out of the settlement.

Later an explosion occurred at the methanol depot and not only the regional forces and facilities but also rescue workers from Moscow and the Austrian detachment were brought in to eliminate the consequences.

The cycle of accidents ended with a gas pipeline burst at the bottom of the Volga. Here divers had to be brought in and with their help the crack had to be found and mended.

I repeat once again that all these situations were imaginary but as close as possible to real situations so the emergency services and rescue workers had to work flat out. But to all appearances the long rehearsals were not in vain—virtually all stages of the exercises were reminiscent of a civil defense training movie. Everyone acted precisely and confidently, almost without mistakes and disruptions which, as we know, almost never happens in our life.

But the international observers were very pleased with what they saw, explaining this unanimity quite simply: They wanted to see how rescue services should operate in emergency situations, that is what we should strive for. And, they said, they already knew of the real shortcomings and errors.

I asked Michael Elmquist to sum up the exercises in more detail, considering here his former assessments when he was still with NATO.

"These exercises showed that both the people and the equipment (of the Ministry for Emergency Situations) can operate confidently and to a high standard," Michael said. "Your rescue workers are supplied with the most modern equipment from the world's leading firms and are prepared for any humanitarian operations. Their training level does not give rise to the slightest doubt and deserves the highest assessment."

"I do not believe," he added, "that the exercises, as you say, were excessively showy. This is a real scenario for international cooperation, what we are seeking in the United Nations in coordinating the rescue services' actions. Yes, I am still keeping track of the state of Russia's civil defense troops but in their new capacity and as part of the new ministry. I must admit that this department's present activity is very effective."

Elmquist's words can be taken both as a compliment and as a prophecy of successes in future joint operations. But it occurred to me that there is a rather simpler explanation for it all—our rescue workers are indeed working increasingly well and more professionally because they are mastering their profession not in theory but in constant accidents, catastrophes, and disasters which take place almost every day in our state, unfortunately.

Rutskoy on 'Historical Truth' in Ties With Baltics

WS1409094894 Tallinn BNS in English 1735 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Kaliningrad, Sep 13, BNS—Aleksandr Rutskoy, the former Russian vice president and one of President Boris Yeltsin's principal opponents, thinks Russia must build its relations with the Baltic states on "historical truth." He said in an interview with BNS that, if he should come again to power, he would base his Baltic policy on history.

"When we look at a map of 1915, we find no sovereign and independent states in it. What we see is the great power Russia," Rutskoy told BNS. In his words, Russia, to lead a worthy existence, must return to "the original historical truth, to what Russia had," and not dream up a new approach.

In Rutskoy's opinion, Great Russia should be restored in the boundaries of the former Soviet Union, yet granting nations the right to a free will.

"If someone wishes to live together with Russia, they are welcome; if there's no such wish, a quite different mechanism will become active," the former vice president and one of the leaders of the 1993 coup attempt said. He noted that the wish (of nations) not to join Russia should be accompanied by observance of "international legal norms," including closing the borders and establishing world market prices.

"As to those who are uncivil to Russian residents and behave arrogantly toward them, there can be only one approach: to finish supplying them with Russian electrical energy, gas, oil, and raw materials," was Rutskoy's decided opinion. He thinks such an approach on Russia's part would break such "separatist regimes" in a month and ultimately "all would start living together," in spite of everything.

In Rutskoy's words, all parts of the former Soviet Union are anyway geopolitically closely linked. Besides, "absolute sovereignty and independence doesn't exist," the former vice president claimed. Commenting on the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltics and Germany, Rutskoy said it was a "totally thoughtless and stupid step."

"Nobody pulls out troops like this. The socialist military bloc ceased to exist long ago, but NATO and its troops are still there. For what purpose?" Rutskoy asked. In his opinion, the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Germany was humiliating not only politically, but also economically. "To take troops to an open field and leave them to their fate there is not a wise policy. You can't behave like that with people who serve in the army," said Rutskoy, a veteran of the Afghanistan war and retired air force general.

The former vice president claimed there's no genuine political opposition in Russia at present and that it's high time to unite public and political movements to form such an opposition.

"Russia's current policy rather resembles a political farce. So as not to be beaten by the powers that be, a proper opposition force with firm aims and tasks needs to be formed," Rutskoy declared.

Rutskoy, who is a leader of the Derzhava (Great Power) political movement, arrived today in Kaliningrad to attend the first congress of Russian patriotic forces "Russian boundaries: from Kaliningrad to the Kuril Islands."

Political Issues

Chernomyrdin Foresees Tense Political Situation

LD1309193394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin believes further aggravation of the internal political situation in the country is possible this autumn following rising unemployment and supply difficulties. However, in an interview with German WDR Tuesday he ruled out that the tensions will be as high as last autumn and that they could lead to bloodshed.

Chernomyrdin harshly criticized those who want to trigger off "a wave of dissatisfaction" calling them "extremists" who "see the meaning of life" in rallies. Chernomyrdin pointed out that the government will not have those people direct the course of the country.

Asked about the future presidential elections in Russia scheduled for 1996, Chernomyrdin ruled out the possibility of his own participation in the presidential race. In his opinion, the time has not yet come to change the president in Russia.

Says Yeltsin Should Run in Next Elections

LD1309132894 Berlin DDP/ADN in German 1224 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Cologne/Moscow (DDP/ADN)—Russia's head of government Viktor Chernomyrdin expects growing unemployment to create new tension in his country, but rules out an escalation similar to last autumn. In a prereleased interview with WDR today, Chernomyrdin also expressed his concern at the overall supply situation during the coming winter. "In our country much depends on the weather over the autumn and winter, and this in turn has a bearing on the political climate," he said. He said unemployment would remain a factor. "I do not want to play this down."

Chernomyrdin distingushed between dissatisfied elements and those "who want to revive the waves of unrest." The government needs to hold a dialogue with the population, he said. He said troublemakers will be dealt with severely. "We have extremists whose aim in life is to demonstrate and shout around on the streets. But we won't allow them to determine our country's course," he stressed. There will be no more bloody upheavals.

Chernomyrdin conceded that the state's fight against crime and the restrictions it placed on civil rights is not compatible with the Constitution. He said the president's decree on the fight against crime "improperly" curtailed citizens' rights and liberties. "But we need a decree of this sort, even if I am not happy with it and it violates our Constitution."

Chernomyrdin ruled out running for president in June 1996. At the same time he indicated that Boris Yeltsin might revise his announcement not to stand again. "This is not the right time for a change of president," he said. "That would be entirely wrong for Russia."

Yeltsin Aides Support Simultaneous 1996 Elections

LD1309204194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1806 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Russian president's aide Georgiy Satarov said he approved of the proposal that the parliamentary and presidential elections be held simultaneously on June 12, 1996, put forward by State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin.

Rybkin made his proposal in a recent interview with Interfax, explaining it by the necessity of saving state money.

"There are things which are not less serious than money," Satarov told Interfax today. He said that simultaneous parliamentary and presidential elections would give a rise to a larger and stronger campaign, making it easier to attract voters.

Satarov said that if the parliamentary elections precede the presidential ones voters may get tired. If the presidential elections are the first to take place voters may think of the parliamentary ones as of less significance, he added.

Satarov said simultaneous elections would give a rise to enthusiasm among voters and guarantee their serious attitude.

Commenting on recent statements by leader of the Liberal Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy calling for early presidential elections, Satarov said that this violates the Civil Accord Pact signed by the LDPR leader.

Kremlin Chief of Staff Sergey Filatov also backed the idea of holding the parliamentary elections along with the presidential ones. He said that those who will run for the presidency or deputy mandates can be divided into those who support the Constitution or reject it. He said that the same logic would define candidates to the State Duma and the formation of coalitions backing this or that candidate.

Filatov said that it would be too hard for Russia both economically and politically to carry out two election campaigns.

Yeltsin May Call Security Council Meeting on Chechnya

LD1309171094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 13 Sep 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 177 (667); compiled by Nilolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin is expected to call a National Security Council meeting next Tuesday to discuss the situation in the southern Russian autonomy of Chechnya, State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin told Interfax.

For his part, Kremlin Chief of Staff Sergey Filatov told newsmen late on Monday that Chechnya continued to remain one of the trouble-ridden regions of Russia. He said whatever political measures necessary must be taken to stabilize the situation and bring an end to the armed conflict there.

Filatov is also worried at continued tension in an area between North Ossetia and Ingushetia, currently under the state of emergency. He said that the Ingush refugees should be denied to return to their homes was not normal. In his words, the federal constitution grants equal rights to all Russian citizens and that setting one's own rules in a given territory amounts to disregard of the basic law and running in the face of the entire society.

On the overall situation in Russia, Filatov spoke of gradual stabilization and signs of diminishing separatist trends in the regions.

He said that secessionism made itself strongly felt in the first stage of economic reforms amid scant food supply when regional administrators had to go it alone and acquired the taste of power at the same time.

But with gradual improvement of the economy, said Filatov, there is a narrowing of the gap between the regions and Moscow and a stronger movement towards the center. He attributes the success to the federal treaty and power sharing arrangement between the center and regions.

IF Note: In the meantime, speakers at a round table conference in the Federation Council (the upper house of parliament) have called on President Yeltsin to suspend the practice of concluding treaties with individual regions. They said this upset the constitutionally-enshrined principle of equality by all regions with none of them to be given unilateral advantages in tax payment to the federal budget. The participants will now appeal to all regions and autonomies to refrain from the practice of political pressure in matters of federal taxation and resort to conciliatory mechanisms in the event of any dispute instead.

Filatov on Implementation of Accord Treaty

LD1309231294

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1745 GMT on 13 September carries its "At First Hand" program. In the 11-minute program, Sergey Filatov, the Russian president's chief of staff, praises the implementation of the public accord treaty so far and emphasizes the need to avoid confrontation. It is a difficult process to set up mechanisms of interaction in society, he says. The implementation of the public accord treaty is being closely monitored, but two years is not enough to pass all the relevant laws which will eventually take the treaty's place—and the treaty was initially concluded for just two years.

Replying to the unidentified program host's question as to whether the country has become more governable since the start of the year, Sergey Filatov says: "Undoubtedly so," although "several tense aspects" remain in the political, ethnic, and economic areas. He mentions Chechnya, North Ossetia, and Ingushetia, and points out that tense situations persist in Karachayevo-Cherkessia and Moldova, where proper authorities have yet to be elected.

"We have many prerequisites to gradually improve and strengthen the situation in the country," Filatov says.

Asked whether a certain abatement of separatist activities in the country is linked with better economic performance or with the fact that stronger authorities have made their presence felt, Filatov says that situations in some regions at the inception of economic reforms was simply "dramatic," but it has improved now, causing rapprochement of interests and drawing together and causing contradictions to recede. The Federation Treaty's role in this process is important, he asserts.

Poltoranin Proposes New Single TV Organization

LD1309120494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1103 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Natalya Cherepanova]

[Text] St. Petersburg September 13 TASS—"The leaders of the Ostankino TV network and of the state television and broadcasting company will definitely oppose the merging of the first, second, fourth, and fifth television channels into a single Russian broadcasting corporation," Mikhail Poltoranin, head of the State Duma Committee for Information Policy and Communication, told ITAR- TASS today. He outlined the essence of his long-hatched plan to set up a single state television network on the basis of the Ostankino and the State Television and Broadcasting Company.

Poltoranin said that the Ostankino personnel would continue working as always at interstate level, while much of the second channel's air time should be transferred to the regional television. Poltoranin assigns to the 4th and 5th channels the role of "sponsors" of the merged television network. These channels, he believes, must be rented to independent Russian and Western TV firms and should serve as the main sources of the broadcasting corporation's incomes.

"As a matter of fact," Poltoranin said, "only a presidential decree could provide an impetus for the implementation of this plan, but we don't even have a draft of such a document." The head of the Duma commission for information policy and communication said his idea was backed by members of his committee.

In turn, head of the presidential administration Sergey Filatov told ITAR-TASS that he was against the merging of the first and second channels of the state television network. According to Filatov, no practical decisions were being made on this score.

Opposition To Hold Moscow Rally 21 Sep

LD1309153894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1321 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Russian opposition organizations are to hold a rally and march in the center of Moscow on September 21, with demands that the government resign and early presidential elections be held. The Moscow Mayor Office gave the go-ahead for the opposition to carry out this action at a meeting between the opposition representatives and Chief of the State Legal Department under the Moscow Mayor's Office Sergey Dontsov today.

September 21 marks the one-year anniversary of Russian presidential decree No. 1400 dissolving the Congress of People's Deputies and the Russian Supreme Soviet. On this day the opposition will march from Pushkin Square to the Theater Square where the rally will take place from 18:00 till 21:00. The permit for the protest limits the number of participants allowed to 30,000 people.

This protest action was initiated by the United Organization Committee of Patriotic Forces, uniting about fifteen opposition organizations, including the Communist Party of Russia, the Russian Communist Workers Party, the Labor Russia and Labor Moscow movements, the Officers Union and the Liberal-Patriotic Revival Party.

The Russian Communist Workers Party also received permission from the Moscow Mayor's Office to picket the Government House on Krasnopresnenskaya Naberezhnaya every day from September 21 on October 4 from 06:00 am till 11:00 p.m. Up to 1000 people are permitted to take part in the pickets.

The United Organization Committee of Patriotic Forces also intends to march from the Russian Foreign Minister [as received] (Smolenskaya Square) to the House of Government and organize a church service near a cross erected near the Government House to commemorate those killed during the tragic events in Moscow in September-October of 1993. Dontsov said that the blessing for the service had been "practically received" from Patriarch Aleksey II. Dontsov put forward no principal objections to the march or the church service. The Moscow Mayor's Office will make a final decision on permission for holding protest actions on October 2 at a later date.

Kaliningrad To Host 'Patriotic Forces' Congress

LD1309194194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The First Congress of Russia's Patriotic Forces with the participation of leaders of opposition parties and movements is expected to take place in Kaliningrad (West Russia) on September 16-17, sources in the Kaliningrad Region Administration told Interfax.

The congress will be called "Russia's Border: From Kaliningrad to the Kuril Islands." It was initiated by the Russian Border (Russkiy Rubezh) local council of patriotic forces, the Zavtra (Tomorrow) opposition newspaper and the Spiritual Inheritance organization.

A representative of Russian Border said that former Russian vice president Aleksandr Rutskoy, Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, Valeriy Zorkin, Yuriy Vlasov, Valentin Rasputin, Mikhail Astafyev, Sergey Baburin, Viktor Alksnis and Nikolay Gubenko had agreed to participate in the congress.

Participants in the congress are expected to hold a press conference on September 15 dedicated to its opening.

Sources close to Rutskoy told Interfax that the former vice president had arrived in Kaliningrad late on September 12. He began his trip across the region by visiting the Mechanization Department. On Tuesday he intends to meet with public representatives of the town. On Wednesday Rutskoy will continue visiting enterprises in Kaliningrad.

New Party Calls for Referendum on Presidential Term

LD1309184094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] A new political organization called the Party of the Majority has announced that it is starting to collect signatures in support of conducting a nationwide referendum in Russia. According to a report by Vyacheslav Grinev, the party's leader, it is proposed that the extension of the term of the president and parliament for another two years, as well as the revival of a constitutional monarchy in Russia, should be put to the referendum.

In Grinev's opinion, extending the term of the present authorities will allow the political and economic situation to become stable. If elections for the president and parliament are held in 1996 as planned, then Russia may find itself on the barricades again, he thinks.

LDPR Deputy: Chechnya Should Remain Part of Russia

LD1309170794

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1200 GMT on 13 September 1994 broadcasts the "Vesti" newscast where correspondent M.

Sarbaa interviews Mikhail Burlakov, a deputy from the State Duma's LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] faction who last Sunday, 11 September, returned from Chechnya's Nadterechnyy Rayon, the place of recent clashes between government forces and the opposition. Burlakov expresses the view of his party toward the Chechen problem, saying that "it is necessary to hold elections and a referendum in order to find out what people want. Any use of force will only destabilize the situation." Burlakov says Chechnya should remain an integral part of Russia and proposes that talks with all the opposition leaders be held to ensure this.

Travkin Acknowledges He May Have to Resign

LD1309125494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Nikolay Travkin, leader of the Democratic Party of Russia faction in the State Duma, may be forced to resign as a deputy because under an edict from the president of Russia he cannot carry out the duties of head of administration of Shakhovskiy rayon.

According to Travkin, he has agreed to meet Sergey Filatov, the president's head of administration, and will try to find a compromise between his deputy's powers and his work in the rayon. If no compromise is found, I do not rule out the possibility that I will resign as a deputy, Nikolay Travkin said.

'Party of the Poor' Claims 7,000 Members

MM1309154294 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Vitaliy Bednov: "'We Are Not a Charitable Institution, We Are the Party of the Future'"]

[Text] So said Nikolay Ayvazyan, chairman of the Russian Party of the Poor, on the eve of the presentation of the first party cards. That event, conceived as a political and propaganda act, takes place 14 September in the capital's "Forum" movie theater.

Despite the pessimists' predictions, the party's organizer and leader asserts, the party lived, lives, and will live. This optimism is confirmed by a factor of some importance: In the two months since the founding congress, more than 7,000 people have joined the Party of the Poor. The movement's organizers find that gratifying. What is disappointing is the social composition. It is well known that we have all, basically, become poor—young and old, scientists and workers, students and pensioners. But those joining the party thus far are mainly elderly people of pre-pension or pension age. That is understandable: They were the first to experience the fruits of the "reforms." But what about young people? After all, they are probably more disappointed than anyone. The party leadership sets the task of attracting that very category of the population into the movement and taking them under its protection. That is why a 24-hour Russian Party of the Poor campaign headquarters began work at the beginning of September, tasked with recruiting as many young people as possible to the party's ranks.

Mr. Ayvazyan is confident that they will cope with this task, despite the fact that the authorities—local and central—are "engaging in all kinds of machinations in the attempt to silence the party or pretend that it does not exist."

So tomorrow 1,000 people will receive Russian Party of the Poor membership cards.

"And what will that do for the poor person?" I asked N. Ayvazyan.

"Many people think the party will feed and water them and find them a place to sleep. No. Our aim is to bring together spiritually and morally those who find themselves below the poverty line and those who are in solidarity with us. We want to gather everyone under one roof and help them to survive in these terrible times."

CIS Summit, Russian Political Scene Viewed

MM1309151194 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[Article by political correspondent Aleksandr Bykovskiy: "From Tuesday to Tuesday: View of Events. So Will There Be Economic Cooperation?"]

[Text] Last week the CIS Statistical Committee reported that the overall fall in production for the Commonwealth countries between January and July amounted to 27 percent and actual output fell by 20.7 percent compared to the same period last year. At 24, 26, and 30 percent respectively, Belorussia [Belarus], Turkmenia, and Kazakhstan ended the first seven months of the year with the highest growth rates for prices.

Of course, if you measure Russia's economic situation against these figures, for example, it looks better placed. But even according to the most favorable forecasts (in conditions of a threefold reduction in monthly inflation rates), the volume of the Russian Federation's GDP will be 7 percent lower in 1995 than in 1994. I emphasize that this is according to the most favorable forecast!

But, respected reader, you and I know that unfortunately many forecasts are, as they say in such cases, built on sand, which we have already seen regularly.

For example, the forecast of Russia's socioeconomic development for the current year supposed that there would be a fall in the volume of GDP by 7-10 percent compared to 1993, but according to the results for the first six months GDP fell by 17(!) percent. What is more it does not look as if the government will be able to overcome this alarming trend in the second six-month period.

Therefore, the interest with which the routine session of the Council of CIS Government Heads was awaited in Russian political circles, as well, probably, as in other

CIS countries, is absolutely understandable. After all, there is still a possibility of preventing a catastrophic fall in production on the territory of the former Soviet Union through a concerted effort, and of giving a positive spur to the development of integration processes in the Commonwealth.

From this point of view, the results of last Friday's Council of CIS Government Heads session are in general encouraging. A decision was adopted to form an Interstate Economic Committee (IEC). For the first time in the Commonwealth's history it will have supervisory-management and executive functions. It is also envisaged that decisions adopted by the IEC will be mandatory for CIS members with regard to several issues (common oil pipelines, energy supply systems, the railroad network, communications, and so on).

Although all the meeting's participants supported the draft agreement on forming an IEC, only 20 basic and 10 additional documents were approved at the meeting, giving many observers grounds for claiming that there is a serious hitch in the formation of an economic union for which a treaty was signed a year ago.

Well, if you are to judge by the quantity of documents agreed, the Moscow meeting really is impressive. But if you recall earlier conferences of the CIS countries' leaders and the no less impressive decisions adopted at these conferences, you have to ask the question: Will the present agreements become reality? All the more so as experience shows that many decisions adopted within the framework of the CIS in practice still remain only good intentions of the CIS countries' leaders. Time will tell what will happen on this occasion.

The subject of the forthcoming elections also continued to be vigorously debated in Russian political circles last week. (In my opinion, the Russian president's, to say the least, overly free behavior during his visit to Germany in many respects "promoted" this.) The Communist and Agrarian Parties are continuing to insist on early presidential elections being held. Moreover, the Communist Party of the Russian Federation has undertaken an initiative to hold a national poll.

The poll's organizers are proposing that the Federal Assembly's powers not be renewed and that early Russian presidential elections be held in the first half of 1995. The poll will be held in municipal districts, villages, settlements, and at mass events. At the same time the opposition is hoping that the draft law "On Referendums" will be adopted in the State Duma—in which the organizers of the collection of citizens' signatures to stage the referendum on holding early presidential elections have a particular interest.

In this connection the statement made by Leader of the Presidential Staff S. Filatov at his meeting with leaders of the mass media was noteworthy. In particular, he stated that he does not rule out the possibility of a number of political forces using the dates of last fall's well-known political events in order to "inflame the situation in the country."

I do not know what effect the national poll will have on the situation. However, I am sure that you cannot describe it as good even now. In my opinion, it is not the opposition which can in any way be blamed for this but the ever worsening collapse of Russia's economic potential.

It is now difficult to guess in what direction future political events in Russia will develop. But you can have no doubt that the situation is hardly going to change for the better if Russians do not unite around the idea of the state's rebirth and the prosperity of each of their fellow citizens, and do not summon into power political forces which are capable of successfully realizing this idea not in words but deeds.

Economic Issues

Soskovets Says Economy 'Far From Crisis'

LD1309122094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1117 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—The Russian economy is facing a complex situation but is far from a crisis, First Vice Premier of the Russian government Oleg Soskovets said today at a meeting with Arnold Coller, visiting head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police of Switzerland. He said this was due to profound market reforms in the country.

The first vice-premier said one instance of this was the military doctrine aimed at a radical restructuring of the economy. Its implementation has given rise to numerous problems, including those relating to redundancies in the military industrial complex, conversion to civilian production and the creation of a virtually new market.

According to Oleg Soskovets, Russia is experiencing serious difficulties in relations with Commonwealth member states. He said Russia was actually being forced to extend commodity loans to former Soviet republics, including petroleum products and gas on privileged terms. The debts accumulated by the Commonwealth member countries have reached about two billion dollars.

The Swiss official concentrated on the activity of organised criminal groups on Swiss territory, including Russian ex-patriots. Switzerland believes, on the strength of the confidential information it has, that Russian criminal gangs are part of an international criminal network.

The Swiss official has called for tightening the visa regime for entrants into his country. He noted that as a result of his meetings with Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin and Justice Minister Yuriy Kalmykov, a memorandum was signed aiming to strengthen cooperation between Russian and Swiss police forces.

Chernomyrdin Views Cooperation With Banks

LD1409002994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1933 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By BIZNES-TASS correspondent Vladimir Zadera]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Sep—Russia's government and commercial banks are ready for constructive joint work to devise ways of making the most effective use of the national financial potential in their common interests. This is one of the main conclusions of today's meeting between Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and the heads of 17 major Russian banks.

A BIZNES-TASS correspondent was told by acting Russian Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin that problems of the interaction of commercial banks and the government were discussed at the conference with a view to optimizing the use of commercial and centralized credit resources, implementing investment projects, and developing the securities market. He regards the main achievement of the government's financial policy as being the reduction of inflation to a relatively low level (four percent in August) and the development of a state securities market.

In the opinion of Russian Central Bank chairman Viktor Gerashchenko, the banks' investment possibilities should be considerably boosted by the banking consortia and pools that are attracted to commercially profitable projects on a competitive basis. Those attending the conference welcomed the enhancement of the Russian Central Bank's control functions, which are intended to protect the financial sector from unscrupulous partners and to lessen the risk from the activities of non-bank financial institutions. The Russian Central Bank representatives pointed out that licences were withdrawn from 19 commercial banks in 1993 for various offenses, whereas the figure for this year was 36 already.

Moscow Said 'Attacked' by Foreign Capital

LD1309163794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1624 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[Text] Moscow September 13—Russia is being attacked by foreign capital in course of industrial privatization policy, chairman of the State Duma's Committee for Economic Policy Sergey Glazyev told the Moscow business community here today.

In his words, the foreign investments in Russian economy are estimated at one billion U.S. dollars but there is no production growth in these spheres. In many cases the production is being curtailed. Thus, foreign businessmen are trying to limit Russian exports to the world market and deter the price drop on some products. In their turn, Russian businessmen are not in a hurry to invest in the domestic production. The outflow of Russian capital from production and its placing on foreign accounts varies from 20 to 30 billion dollars, said Glazyev.

A new edition of the law on foreign investments will help to limit chaotic investments, introduce privileges and limits for investors and create a civilized climate for investments in the Russian economy, he stressed.

Gerashchenko Cited on Exchange Rate Policy

MM1309145194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Sep 94

[Unattributed report from the "Right Angle" roundup: "Squeezing the Ruble to Death"—from page 1 of the DELOVOY VTORNIK section]

[Text] "It is not our aim to drive the ruble [R] downward at full speed. The rate of the ruble against the dollar reflects the necessary proportions in the structure of prices in existence for goods in world trade." This is how Central Bank of Russia Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko answered a question on the reasons for the fall in the ruble rate against the dollar. "Through our policy, we must strive to support the ruble rate at the kind of level which would secure the advantage of export deals for our traditional exporters," Viktor Gerashchenko said. He noted that the average ruble rate for the year is shaping up at R3,000 to the dollar. Viktor Gerashchenko noted that the Central Bank's hard currency reserves for 1993 rose to almost $7 billion. At the same time, estimates by experts give grounds to suggest that in 1993-94 between 15 and 20 billion dollars were in the hands of Russians and by various means made their way abroad.

Viktor Gerashchenko was asked the following question: "Will banknotes to the value of R100,000 and more come into circulation eventually? The Central Bank chairman pointed out that in 1993 and in the first half of 1994 we managed to avoid the need to issue R100,000 banknotes.

Currency Exchange Offices To Face More Inspections

LD1309143294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1346 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Konstantin Savvin]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—The Moscow department of the Russian Central Bank will make more frequent its inspections of currency exchange offices, a Central Bank news conference was told here today. The news conference focused on Moscow currency exchange offices and normalized activities of enterprises selling goods for hard currency.

Over 120 currency exchange offices were inspected in July and August, deputy head of the department's currency division Aleksandr Ageyenkov told the news conference. Each fourth of these offices was denied registration, and 23 fined for violation of the exchange rules. All in all, Moscow has 900 registered exchange offices opened by 175 commercial banks. Each office is expected to be checked up by early 1995. It is also planned to create territorial controlling bodies.

Until recently Moscow had over 1,000 enterprises and organizations selling goods and services for hard currency, head of the currency department's currency control Dmitriy Yan told the news conference. The enterprises and organizations have been controlled for over two years. This summer more than 400 of them were denied the right to sell goods for hard currency.

At the same time, the Moscow department of the Russian Central Bank does not think that black lists of violators should be made and leaves the enterprises the right to receive a new permission after the inspection, Yan told BUSINESS-TASS. An enterprise will have to submit documents to the Moscow department in order to get the permission anew.

Zaveryukha: No Grain Purchases From Abroad This Year

LD1309154894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1450 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Rumyantsev]

[Text] St. Petersburg, 13 Sep—Vice-Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha today denied reports which have appeared in some Russian mass media about the alleged signing at state level of a contract for the purchase in the United States of 7 million tons of grain.

"Russian merchants can of course make personal plans to conclude deals, including grain deals. We, in turn are prepared to support any reasonable initiative, such as, for instance, setting up international grain exchanges in major towns of the country," the vice-premier said in an exclusive interview to the ITAR-TASS correspondent. "But the government does not intend to purchase a single gram of grain abroad this year."

Aleksandr Zaveryukha said that the approximate grain harvest in Russia will be 90-95 million tons. This is quite sufficient to provide Russians with bread and livestock-breeding with fodder. He added that 16 million tons of grain from last year's harvest still remains in the country.

"And on the whole problems are not foreseen with all crops," the vice-premier stressed, "except for sugar beet of which we do not have enough for obtaining the sugar the country needs."

Inflation Numbers Show Some Stability Achieved

MM1309153394 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Sep 94

[Unattributed report from the "Right Angle" roundup: "Will There Be A Time When Prices Might Fall?"—from page 1 of the DELOVOY VTORNIK section]

[Text] Monthly inflation rates by the end of the year "will under no circumstances go beyond the 8 percent mark," Aleksandr Livshits, leader of the group of experts under the Russian Federation president, said. In his words, the fact that for virtually the whole year inflation in Russia has been kept at a low level testifies to the attainment of some financial stability. According to the latest figures from the Russian Federation Government Center for Economic Conditions, inflation in August stood at 4 percent—the lowest indicator for the entire period since the start of price deregulation.

Statistics Show 'Almost 30 Million' in Poverty

MM1309162994 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Below the Poverty Line"]

[Text] Whereas at the beginning of the year average pay in Russia stood at approximately 134,000 rubles [R], in the last six months it has risen by more than R73,000.

According to the estimates of specialists at the Russian Federation Ministry of Labor, the number of Russians on incomes equal to or exceeding average pay has also increased. At the beginning of the year only around 14 percent of more than 148 million working Russians had such a wage. Today one in three earns this amount. At the same time, the ministry's specialists note, 107.6 million people have incomes below average pay. And almost 30 million are living below the poverty line.

Military & Space Issues

Planned Defense Spending in 1995 Discussed

LD1309175194 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Mikhail Zadornov, chairman of the State Duma's Budget Committee is convinced that the draft budget will not be submitted to the lower chamber of parliament before 1 October. State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin had earlier repeatedly said that the draft budget would be submitted on 15 September.

Some figures of the new budget are already becoming known. Our correspondent Ivan Tresilov has the details:

[Tresilov] According to Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee, in the draft budget for 1995 the government plans to spend 58 trillion rubles on defense. However, according to the estimates by

Defense Ministry experts, 112 trillion rubles are needed next year to put the financing of the Army on a proper footing.

The year 1995 is still a long time away, but already now the government's indebtedness to the Defense Ministry is enormous as far as the current payments are concerned, in particular where the financing of the upkeep of the Armed Forces is concerned. Here is what Sergey Yushenkov had to say on this:

[Begin Yushenkov recording] Twenty two and around one tenth trillion ought to be made available for the upkeep of the Army over the period of a year. Let us say that just over 16 trillion should have been made available over the past nine months—whereas only 9 trillion will have been made available over the nine months. That is to say that the financing is at a level of 58 percent (of the protected articles) [words indistinct]. [end recording]

[Tresilov] The lower chamber's defense committee thinks that there is an emergency situation in the forces and it intends, in the nearest future, to send a letter to the president. Yushenkov hopes that the head of state will intervene promptly and that he will issue relevant instructions to normalize the financing of the Army.

Details of Tu-22M Collision With Tu-134

MM1309115594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Viktor Belikov: "Why Tu-22M Did Not Break Up. Details of Air Crash Near Yegoryevsk"]

[Text] A Tu-22M supersonic bomber was able to land after colliding with a Tu-134 observation aircraft during a research flight 9 September. The four members of its crew led by highly experienced test pilot A. Makhalin survived.

As has already been reported, the collision occurred northeast of Yegoryevsk, Moscow Oblast, but the ITAR-TASS report wrongly named one of the aircraft—it was not a Tu-122 but a Tu-22M, which had been converted to study new wing profiles. According to information we received from the Tupolev Experimental Design Bureau, from the Tu-134 (commanded by V. Pavlov, a Flight Test Institute test pilot) flying on a parallel heading at a distance of some 30 meters a thermal imager (an instrument recording infrared radiation) was filming the air flow around the remodeled wing. Following the sudden collision the Tu-22M crew made an accurate and competent assessment of the state of their aircraft and then decided to land at their airfield. This conclusion to the flight was facilitated by the high-speed aircraft's ability to vary the wing geometry, thus increasing the heavy bomber's flying capability.

Ye. Kovalenko, chairman of the crash investigation commission, said that pieces of the destroyed Tu-134 fell into a deep swamp, from which they were extracted by emergency rescue services who arrived on the scene. The bodies of all eight dead crewmen, disfigured beyond recognition, were found nearby, while the "black boxes"—recording flight parameters and crew conversations—were found intact.

Arms, Conversion Fair Opens in Nizhniy Novgorod

MM1309131194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Maryukha: "Combining Business and Pleasure"]

[Text] Nizhniy Novgorod—An exhibition entitled "Arms and Military Equipment. Conversion" has opened in Nizhniy Novgorod. Only 17 percent of the 1,500 exhibits on show are military output—the rest are conversion goods.

Within the framework of the exhibition it is planned to hold a number of seminars that will enable members of the Russian arms industry to better adapt to the new conditions. The work of the exhibition, which will last the whole week, will end 16 September with a demonstration at the Gorokhovetskiy test range of the practical application of military equipment, including the "Msta" and "Smerch" systems and others.

Arms Fair Reported Flop

MK1309095094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Kartashov from Moscow—Nizhniy Novgorod: "Trading Is an Art. Plenty of Arms but Little Profit"]

[Excerpts] On 11 September the third Russian fair "Arms. Military Equipment. Conversion" opened in Nizhniy Novgorod. [passage omitted]

Specialists roamed the fairgrounds waiting for it to open. There is no point in buyers' visiting the fair itself. After all, the entire arms trade is now handled by the state company Rosvooruzheniye. Enterprises curse this company high and low. According to enterprises' representatives, Rosvooruzheniye is not helping them a bit to survive. Conversion, on the other hand, according to the defense establishment, can only finally destroy our military industry. The exhibition bears this view out completely. Whereas the arms displays and open sites feature the most advanced combat equipment, the conversion products exhibited are all ugly monstrosities. [passage omitted]

Yet arms producers themselves cannot trade. Some time ago the Central Research and Scientific Institute of Precision Machine Building (leading developer of small arms and special weapons) was visited by representatives of the Uzbek Army. They said they were ready to buy all the samples, and in large numbers. Even a dozen underwater machine guns and pistols. They were asked, "Why do you need this?" "Oh, just in case," the Uzbeks said. The deal was stalled. Rosvooruzheniye began talks.

Arms producers mention prices only in a whisper. It seems that we trade at very low prices. A Kalashnikov automatic rifle in a small lot wholesales for $160, and in a large lot, $125. [passage omitted] In order to give the Central Research and Scientific Institute of Precision Machine Building a chance to survive, the government allowed it to open a permanent sales exhibition at its test site in the city of Klimovsk in Moscow Oblast. [passage omitted]

Arms Sales Center To Be Created

LD1309203494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1806 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The Russian government is preparing a decision to create a federal center for the sales of weapons, military equipment and high technology of the defense industry on the basis of the Nizhniy Novgorod arms fair. This statement was made by the deputy chairman of the Russian State Defense Industries Committee, Gennadiy Yanpolskiy, visiting an arms exposition held in the city Tuesday.

Yanpolskiy said a joint-stock company Volzhskiy Innovation Corporation had already been set up in Nizhniy Novgorod to represent the state company Rosvooruzheniye in the region. The city and regional administrations, banks and associations of enterprises, nuclear center Arzamas-16 and other leading defense enterprises of the region are among its founders.

The company's director general, Sergey Zimin, told Interfax that its main goal was to boost Russia's arms exports. In his opinion, Russia must have its own arms show in Nizhniy Novgorod thanks to the unique geographical conditions and the high concentration of defense enterprises.

For his part, Nizhniy Novgorod region governor Boris Nemtsov pointed out that the city was Russia's arsenal as it had about 80 defense enterprises, including the federal nuclear center, plants producing MiG-29 and MiG-31 fighters, docks Krasnoye Sormovo which used to produce diesel and nuclear submarines, etc. The region's defense enterprises employ about 200,000 workers and engineers, or 15 percent of all those employed in the region.

Nemtsov believes that the Nizhniy Novgorod region has everything to become a multi-purpose demonstration and trade show of arms and military equipment.

Cosmonauts Complete Successful Space Walk

LD1309164094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1518 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—Cosmonauts Yuriy Malenchenko and Talgat Musabayev made another spacewalk today.

The cosmonauts opened the air-lock hatch at 10:31 (Moscow time) today, sources at the ground mission control center told ITAR-TASS. They used the boom to get to the Kvant module where the 13th Mir expedition assembled two additional drives of solar batteries on special platforms. After binding joints that connect the drives with the platforms, the cosmonauts went to the foundation of the 14-meter Sofora structure, inspected its connection with the Kvant module and did maintenance work.

The commander and the flight engineer dismantled containers with various constructional material samples placed a year ago on the Rapana truss.

Upon the completion of their operations, the cosmonauts returned to the air-lock and closed the entrance hatch at 16:32 (Moscow time).

While the cosmonauts were on a spacewalk, flight physician Valeriy Polyakov controlled on-board systems and physical state of Malenchenko and Musabayev, and kept contact with the spacewalkers.

Federal Assembly

Duma Committee Head on Budget Implementation

LD1309221194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The economic situation in Russia is in line with the worst forecasts, Sergey Glazyev, chairman of the State Duma Economic Policy Committee, believes. He presented an analysis of the situation in the economy at a meeting with representatives of the capital's business circles. Yevgeniy Zherebenkov reports on details.

[Zherebenkov] The results of the first six months show that it is simply impossible to implement the country's budget approved by the Federation Council, Sergey Glazyev reported at the meeting. In the first six months of 1994 production fell by 27 percent, capital investments decreased by 36 percent, and the fall in the machine- building industry reached 30-55 percent. In Sergey Glazyev's opinion, these indices show that the country's economy is in the deepest depression in its history. Sergey Glazyev reported that serious demands will be made upon the government to adjust economic policy at a constituent congress of goods manufacturers, scheduled for 19-20 September in Cheboksary. The Duma committee headed by Sergey Glazyev has already drawn up a relevant program.

[Begin Glazyev recording] Regarding demands on economic policy, they are sufficiently obvious. If sufficiently decisive and well- organized measures are not taken in the very near future to overcome the economic slump in the industrial sphere and to counter structural shifts toward the deterioration of industry, if demand by the state and the population is not increased, if no active and decisive measures are taken to defend the domestic market, then all these trends will continue and, naturally, by the end of the year our economy will assume a qualitatively different structure, in which the share of the machine-building industry and science- intensive production facilities will be practically reduced to negligible proportions. That is, to date the trend toward (?deindustrialization) has already gained momentum, and extremely decisive measures are needed to counter it. [end recording]

Duma, Federation Council Discuss Legislative Program

MM1409100194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Sep 94 First Edition p 1

[Report from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA/ITAR-TASS column under "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" rubric: "Rybkin and Shumeyko Behind Closed Doors"]

[Text] A joint plan of lawmaking activity for the upcoming fall session of the Federal Assembly's chambers and questions of their cooperation were discussed at a working meeting between State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin and Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko, held behind closed doors yesterday.

According to a report by Viktor Cheremukhin, leader of the State Duma Press Service, the socioeconomic situation in the country was also examined in the meeting.

State Duma To Pass Bills on Banks in Nov

MK1309103094 Moscow KOMMERSANT in Russian No. 34 13 Sep 94 p 8

['RIA-Prime' report: "State Duma To Consider Package of Bank Bills"]

[Excerpt] Mikhail Zadornov, chairman of the State Duma Budget and Finance Committee, has said in Vladivostok that the parliament is going to pass in second reading the bills "On the Central Bank of Russia" and "On Banks and Banking Activity" next November. The committee is also drafting a number of other bills, in particular on specialized banks, and also a general banking code. The committee also works together with the Finance Ministry and the Central Bank on the securities and auditing bills.

According to Mr. Zadornov, the parliament is fiercely debating the problem of maintaining banks' privacy of deposits. The tax police and the Internal Affairs Ministry effectively oppose its existence, citing the president's edicts, whereas the State Duma thinks it necessary to adjust the edicts so as to bring them in line with banking legislation. [passage omitted]

Regional Affairs

Moscow Cuts Oil Supplies to Dudayev

MM1309141394 Moscow TRUD in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Pchelkin: "Moscow Upping Pressure on Dudayev"]

[Text] Stavropol—The air blockade of Chechnya, which has been in place for more than a month now, was joined last week by a rail and road transport blockade. Dozens of trains, including passenger trains, were standing idle at stations from Rostov to Mozdok. And internal troops subunits at checkpoints on roads out of Chechnya were instructed to turn back trucks headed in and out. The result of these measures was an order from Moscow to Stavropol oil workers to turn off the underground pipeline through which up to 3,500 tons of oil was pumped every day to the bulk oil station in the Chechen settlement of Ishcherskaya and then exported by Russia in rail cars. Chechnya is still receiving Russian electricity and gas, and Russian telephone communications are still in place, but these lines could be cut off too if people really wanted to do so. All the more so as there is an excuse—the Chechen Republic owes money to the Russian regions for the energy resources it is consuming.

The government says its tough steps on the Chechen border are due to its own security interests. This is a weighty argument. According to the railroad department, thefts of freight being shipped across the "sovereign" republic have recently grown to an unprecedented scale. And the current internecine warfare in Ichkeria has made traveling across its territory dangerous for your health.

And yet there are grounds for believing that, in locking up the Chechen border, Russia is pursuing yet another goal—to move from passive observance of the conflict brewing in the mountain republic with its unpredictable outcome to an attempt to direct the political processes under way there. Which of the Chechen opposition leaders has the Kremlin's sympathy is something that was known before. Under the virtual blockade of the republic these sympathies have been even more clearly in evidence. For instance, according to information from the Chechen border, it is still possible to move freight in and out of Chechnya if you have documents drawn up by the Interim Council.

Moscow's patent support for Umar Avturkhanov is making him a more important figure in opposition circles, which have been tending to pool their efforts following the rout of the R. Labazanov grouping in Argun. In this situation allying yourself with a not very popular but militarily well equipped Avturkhanov who is able to receive support from Russia—including food support—is extremely timely. And Khasbulatov is already embracing him, pushing aside his own recent unambiguous hints that Moscow is trying to install a "puppet regime" in Groznyy. Incidentally, the prerevolutionary historian who in the brochure "A Few Things About the Chechens" published by Groznyy's "Kniga" Publishing House wrote that: "It has always been normal in the Caucasus for two enemies to join forces to destroy a third enemy before going back to killing each other..." may not be so far from the truth.

At any rate, the opposition is now flexing its "muscles" with a vengeance in readiness for some decisive battles. A couple of weeks ago military circles in Groznyy were claiming that the "bandit formations" (that is what the Dudayev entourage calls the opposition) had no more than 50 pieces of armored hardware, most of which were deployed in Nadterechnyy Rayon. But the other day Dudayev stated that the "bandits" already had 140 armored personnel carriers and tanks, as well as antiaircraft guns, howitzers, helicopters, and aircraft. The Interim Council is refusing to disclose the quantity of armaments it holds, stating just one thing—that all its military systems, including aircraft, have been bought with funds held by the Interim Council. Its sources of finance are not being revealed. In all probability, the opposition is striving to match the government army's level of military provision.

The opposition will, most probably, be encouraged to take vigorous action in the very near future by Moscow, which has found itself under tough time pressure owing to the blockade of Chechnya. Reports of the construction of a rail line to bypass the Chechen Republic and of the building of a loading dock [estakada] to pump Stavropol oil to other areas are only likely to reassure not very well informed people. Both of these projects will take many months. Meanwhile Dagestan, which is cut off from the railroad, is suffering huge losses right now. Oil workers in the Stavropol area have already started making huge losses, which will be multiplied if the issue of the pumping of the oil is not settled in the very near future.

The situation taking shape around Chechnya shows us yet again that politics is a changeable thing. The Kremlin's refusal to have a dialogue with official Groznyy leads us to suppose that the until recently so popular thesis of "take as much sovereignty as you can" is now off the agenda. Dudayev has clearly "taken" more sovereignty than the Kremlin expected.

Opposition Takes Control of Cherlenskiy Bridge

LD1309210194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2046 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS—The opposition took control over the Chervlenskiy bridge, 20 kilometers away from Groznyy, on Tuesday afternoon. Seven servicemen of Dudayev's units which protected the bridge were taken prisoner. The Provisional Council's unit had no casualties, press secretary of the Chechen Provisional Council Ruslan Martagov told ITAR-TASS over the telephone.

Unidentified persons tried to blast the Ishcherskiy bridge on Tuesday's eve. The bridge is located several kilometers away from the Provisional Council headquarters in the Znamenskoye settlement. The blast partially damaged the bridge, but the traffic was not stopped. The bridge has also been taken under protection of the Provisional Council.

Concentration of Chechen governmental armored vehicles and artillery systems was reported from the area of the Chernorechye settlement not far from Urus Martan controlled by the opposition group of Bislan Gantamirov.

In the words of Martagov, an opposition rally attended by Umar Avturkhanov was held on Tuesday in the settlement of Beno-Yurt of the Chechen Nadterechnyy Region. The rally adopted a resolution "to denounce the regime of Dzhokhar Dudayev and support the policy of the Provisional Council."

"No clashes between the opposition and government troops have been reported over the past 24 hours," head of the Chechen Information and Press Department Movladiy Udugov told ITAR-TASS on Tuesday. In his words, the situation in regions under Dudayev's control remains tranquil.

The information department has "no information on concentration of government troops on the border with the Nadterechnyy region, as well as information on military activities of the opposition." At the same time, "Groznyy is taking measures to prevent military deposing of the current Chechen leadership," said Udugov.

Government Forces Restore Control

LD1409112994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0949 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Sep—"Control was restored this morning over the Chervlenskiy bridge over the river Terek 20 kilometers from Groznyy which was seized on Tuesday evening by opposition forces," the Chechen State Security Department told ITAR-TASS. According to Sultan Geliskhanov, head of Chechen counterintelligence, "the bridge is now being guarded by representatives of the Naurskaya militia department, State Security Department forces, and government troops reinforced with armored vehicles."

According to the Chechen State Security Department's version of events, as a result of the attack on the bridge on which there were three State traffic police officials and seven servicemen of the government troops, six people suffered shell-shock, were captured and taken to the village of Znamenskoye where the headquarters of the Chechen interim council is situated.

The press service of the Chechen president told ITAR-TASS that today the republic is commemorating the settlement of Dady-Yurt which was burned to the ground by General Yermolov's tsarist troops during the Caucasus war. A gathering of residents in which [Chechen] President Dudayev is to take part is expected to be held at the site, near the town of Gudermes.

According to Movladi Udugov, chief of the Chechen Information and Press Department, with whom the ITAR-TASS correspondent spoke on the phone, the meeting of Chechen women held in Groznyy on Tuesday "demanded an end to the confrontation and opposed the activity in the republic of ex-speaker of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov." He added that participants in the meeting said on loacl television that they had visited Ruslan Khasbulatov's mother in the village of Tolstoy-Yurt. According to them, the ex-speaker himself had refused to speak to the delegation of Chechen women.

Khasbulatov Holds Talks With Chechen Opposition

LD1309134394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0817 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Report from Chechnya by Vasiliy Litvinenko]

[Excerpt] The situation in Chechnya remains tense. The confrontation between opposition forces and official Groznyy, as the authorities there are described, is intensifying with every passing day. Ruslan Khasbulatov, former speaker of the Russian parliament, has been on a peace mission to the headquarters of the opposition, headed by Umar Avturkhanov, in Nadterechnyy district. During the talks he held there he stressed that the conflict can only be resolved by peaceful means, through a general civil peace, stabilization of the situation, and new, democratic elections. Khasbulatov refused to be interviewed by journalists. He said he feared distortion of the facts, alleging that this has already happened several times before. Admittedly, he did manage to say that he is not seeking to become president of Chechnya and that he will not be standing as a candidate in the elections. His views on Dudayev have not changed. Dudayev must resign in order to prevent bloodshed. Any delay could, as they say, be fatal—in the literal rather than the figurative sense.

Thanks largely to active redeployment of its armed forces, the opposition has managed to dig in on the approaches to the capital of the Chechen Republic. However, there is no frontline as such. The warfare here is positional, aimed at attracting as many clansmen to the opposition side as possible and forcing President Dudayev and his supporters to quit without violence. This is a sensible decision. Even within the same family you won't find unanimity of views. Quite often here you find brothers viewing each other through the sights of an automatic weapon. Nobody has ever won a civil war. Usually it is both sides which lose, because lives are lost on both sides. It's a brutal business. [passage omitted]

Chechen Opposition Rally Calls for Free Elections

LD1309180194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The opposition Interim Council of Chechnya held a rally of its supporters on Tuesday in the village of Ben-Yurt in Nadterechnyy Rayon, Interfax reports. The rally was also attended by representatives of several rayons of Chechnya. A resolution that was adopted expresses support for the actions of the opposition against Dzhokhar Dudayev. The participants in the rally called for a referendum to be held on the state organization of Chechnya and free elections.

Chechen Opposition Supporters Arrested

LD1309224694 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Chechen law enforcement bodies have arrested several supporters of the opposition. According to Chechen Procurator General Usman Imayev, Bekman Desultanov and Musa Akhromayev are among those detained. The two men were appointed by the Interim Council to the posts of deputy procurator general and agricultural minister respectively.

Overall, according to news agencies, the situation in the republic remains relatively calm. A rally by about 5,000 opposition supporters was held today in the republic's Nadterechnyy rayon. A resolution was adopted supporting the idea of holding a referendum on the state structure of Chechnya and free elections.

New Railroad Bypassing Chechnya To Be Built

MM1309142794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Rybakov under the "In the Government" rubric: "Decision Adopted To Construct Railroad Bypassing Chechnya"]

[Text] The deterioration in the crime situation and mass organized thefts of freight from cars and containers on the section of the North Caucasus Railroad located on the territory of the Chechen Republic began in 1993. At that time approximately 400 attacks on trains were committed on this section, and 2,000 cars and containers were robbed of goods worth 6 billion rubles [R].

Armed thefts of goods are continuing even now. During the first eight months of this year 159 armed attacks on trains were committed, 1,382 cars and 612 containers were opened up and robbed, and the losses totaled R17 billion. Thus, 22 August this year an armed attack was committed on train No. 2002 proceeding to Azerbaijan, 30 cars were opened up, 19 of them were cleaned out, and goods worth R821 million were stolen. In this attack an automatic weapon put two electric locomotives out of commission, the contact system was damaged, and six paramilitary guards accompanying the train were injured.

The Ministry of Railways is receiving appeals and complaints from railroad transport workers, demanding guarantees of their personal safety in work connected with freight transportation on this section of the railroad.

The measures being taken, including repeated appeals and negotiations with the leadership of the Chechen Republic, have not yielded positive results. The leadership of the North Caucasus Railroad has repeatedly met with the government and with President Dudayev of the Chechen Republic personally on the question of ensuring the safety of freight on trains. But their assurances that order will be instilled in this matter have not been backed up by action.

Gennadiy Fadeyev, Russian minister of railways, commented on the situation:

"I see no solution in Chechnya at present—there is total chaos. They drive cranes up to the trains and literally 'pluck off' everything—timber, coal.... They even rob the passengers. Imagine, the conductors issue passengers with glass-holders so that they can...fasten the entrance doors to their compartments. Not so long ago they took a woman conductor prisoner. They released her four days later, but it was impossible to recognize her—she was as though dumb. I telephoned Dudayev: Stop the mayhem. Things were quiet for a month, but then it started up again.... Now not a single train runs with our teams, and at nighttime trains do not run at all with valuable freight."

In connection with the sharp deterioration in the crime situation in the Chechen Republic and the impossibility of the safe passage of passenger trains across its territory, passenger train services were canceled as of 5 September. Sergey Barbarich, chief of the Ministry of Railways Special Administration, told us that a decision has been adopted to construct a 78km railroad from Kizlyar to Yurt by way of Kirtlan, bypassing the Chechen Republic.

Presidential Envoys Favor 1996 Regional Elections

MK1309110094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Sergey Slyusarenko: "The 'Sovereign's Men' Have Supported the Governors and Deputies"]

[Text] Presidential representatives, who conferred 9 September in Petersburg behind closed doors, spoke in favor of simultaneous elections in 1996 of State Duma deputies and heads of regional administrations. This was announced at yesterday's press conference by Sergey Tsyplyayev, the president's representative in St. Petersburg, who briefed journalists on details of the conference.

The president's representatives, forgetting for a while about their problems and postponing the discussion of the bill on their own status allowing to address these problems, attended to the situation around the upcoming elections of both power branches. The majority of conference participants, according to Tsyplyayev, favor elections to the State Duma and elections of oblast and kray administration chiefs (who will also become members of the Federation Council) to be held simultaneously, in 1996. This would allow a possible failure of local elections to be avoided and to form the Federal Assembly literally within just a few days.

The conference participants also stated their position on the Duma's draft law on power bodies in the Federation components. Of the two local administration options proposed to the deputies—collegiate and one-man management—the president's representatives opted for the second. In their view, a region should be headed by one popularly elected leader; otherwise there will be the "good old" executive committees.

At the same time kray and oblast charters, which should define the form and time frame for local elections, Tsyplyayev noted, do not always correspond to the constitution. True, the president's St. Petersburg representative believes, this is done not by malicious design but through the local leaders' insufficient awareness. And the model draft charter prepared by the presidential staff, which will vary depending on regional specifics, will allow to deal with this problem. The "king's men" also criticized the overly free handling of the Moscow model by some federation components: In an ecstasy of legislative work they produce not charters but small constitutions providing for the creation of their own courts and prosecutor's offices. The president's representatives were virtually unanimous on this issue: Federal power bodies must be single and indivisible.

N. Ossetian, Ingush Checkpoint Under Fire

LD1309215394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] According to information from a source at the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, the situation in the emergency zone on the territory of North Ossetia and Ingushetia remains complex. On Monday, unidentified people fired five shots from grenade launchers from the direction of a mountain massif near the Kavdalamit quarry in the suburbs of Vladikavkaz, and fired from automatic weapons on the checkpoint of the separate commandant's section of the military unit of the Defense Ministry loyal to the provisional administration. When the post's servicemen returned fire, the perpetrators disappeared.

Ingushetia Fails To Implement Yeltsin Edicts

LD1309200594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Ingush President Ruslan Aushev blamed the Interim Administration for not influencing the situation in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict. He told Interfax today that this had resulted in mass human rights violations in the state of emergency zone where "extremist forces are able to act freely."

"None of the three decrees issued by the Russian president since the beginning of the year and instructing the Russian government, the Interim Administration and the North Ossetian leaders to ensure the return of refugees and displaced persons to their permanent place of residence have been implemented," Aushev said.

The Federal Migration Service said that there are 49,000 Ingush refugees on Ingush territory who had fled from the Prigorodnyy Region of North Ossetia in October-November of 1992 during the Ossetian-Ingush armed clashes.

N. Ossetian Administration Halts Refugees' Return

MK0709104094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 7 Sep 94 p 2

[SEGODNYA-POSTFACTUM report under the "State of Emergency" rubric: "Provisional Administration Suspends Return of Ingush Refugees Because the Ossetians Did Not Like Boris Yeltsin's Edict"]

[Text] The Provisional Administration on the territory of North Ossetia has announced that "tension in the state of emergency area has heightened in connection with rallies and gatherings held by people of Ossetian origin who oppose the implementation of the Russian Federation president's edict," and suspended the repatriation of the Ingush who fled their home villages after bloody interethnic clashes in November 1992.

The Ingush have reacted with bitter anguish to the Provisional Administration's decision. "For Vladimir Lozovoy, head of the Provisional Administration, demands by an extremist mob proved to take precedence over an edict by the Russian Federation president," Musa Zurabov, deputy chairman of the Ingush Council of Ministers, said. In Mr. Zurabov's opinion, "only by bringing legal and administrative action against officials responsible for failure to adhere to the edicts by the Russian Federation president will it be possible to have the chiefs and their officials heed Russia's laws and Constitution."

Orenburg Oblast Harvest 'Clearly Lagging Behind'

MM1309124394 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Ceiling Price"]

[Text] Orenburg Oblast's Tashlinskiy Rayon, one of the first to complete the harvest, has set up its own grain fund, which will guarantee the uninterrupted supply of grain to the population right up to next year's harvest. In addition, the head of the rayon administration has set a ceiling price for a small loaf of bread of 700 rubles [R], against the forecast cost of R1500. In the oblast as a whole, the work is clearly lagging behind in comparison with last year. Only 60 percent of cereal crops have been cut compared with the 1993 indicator: Even less than that has been threshed. Nevertheless, the settled weather promises the rapid return of combine harvesters from the fields.

Kursk Grain Harvesting Complete

MM1309140394 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[ITAR-TASS, POSTFACTUM, PRAVDA column report under the "In Brief" rubric]

[Text] Kursk grain producers have finished gathering the grain harvest. An area of 847,000 hectares of grain has been mown. Almost 2 million tons of grain have been threshed. The average harvest has been 23.6 quintals per hectare.

Grachev Visits Military Exhibition

LD1309211294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Today [Russian Defense Minister] Pavel Grachev, who is on a working tour of the units of the Moscow military district visited Nizhniy Novgorod. The head of the Russian military department familiarized himself with both the military and conversion sections of a military exhibition held in the town. He had conversations with leaders of enterprises and designers. Afterwards he held a news conference.

He said that the exhibition is in line with the concept for the development of the Russian Armed Forces. This is a program for improving all types of military equipment and is agreed with the leading manufacturing plants, taking into account government observations. Grachev reported that China, India, and the Persian Gulf countries show interest in Russian weapons. The countries—former members of the Warsaw Pact—are ever more active in requesting components.

Voronezh Oblast Clinic for Refugees Opens

MM1409082994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Valeriy Mirolevich from the "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" roundup: "First Hospital for Refugees"]

[Text] Voronezh—A medical center for maintaining the health of displaced persons and refugees has opened in Borisoglebsk. This, indeed, is the first medical institution of its kind in Russia.

Now these people will not have to roam the corridors of local clinics where "outsiders" are received somewhat less than warmly. The staff of the new medical institution comprises experienced doctors and nurses.

According to the testimony of chief physician F. Grigoryev, the bulk of the hospital's patients are from Tajikistan. And this is no coincidence: Borisoglebsk is one of the largest Russian stations at which the "Dushanbe-Moscow" train stops.

Mordovian Justice Minister Sacked for Abuses

MM1309155594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under "Inform" rubric roundup: "If You Don't Keep Your Mouth Shut..."]

[Text] In the Government of Mordovia, by the will of deputies of the autonomous entity's parliament, Justice Minister Ivan Filimonov has been dismissed from his post. For what, would you think? For the minister's systematic violations of labor discipline. "If anyone should know, the minister of justice should know what to do during work time," Valeriy Shvetsov, head of the Mordovian Government, declared.

Incidentally, at his last meeting with the republic's premier Filimonov had given a firm promise to put an end to all abuses and partiality. This is the result—104 deputies voted for the minister's resignation.

Ivan Filimonov himself believes that the session held had adopted an unfair decision—he suffered as the result of a "dirty political struggle."

Pickering Arrives in Arkhangelsk Oblast

LD1309221894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1845 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Anufriyev]

[Text] Arkhangelsk, 13 Sep—U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering arrived in Arkhangelsk this evening. The purpose of the visit has not yet been disclosed. Local analysts are linking the U.S. ambassador's arrival in the northern area around Arkhangelsk with a serious intention on the part of American big business to consolidate its foothold in the region, which is rich in oil and gas.

According to a provisional program, Pickering will have a meeting on 14 September with the administration of Arkhangelsk Oblast, will tour the seaport, and will visit the Stalker joint-stock company, which is developing the production of small houses using U.S. technology.

International Affairs

Moroz Urges Settling Problems Before Yeltsin Visit

LD1309191694 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] We need a result, not another declarative document, said Ukraine's Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz in a comment on the preparation of a draft treaty on friendship, cooperation, and partnership between Ukraine and Russia. Moroz said that numerous interim problems had to be solved before the treaty was signed, and a common basis had to be found to settle unresolved issues. Even if this means that Yeltsin's visit would have to be postponed, the speaker said, there is no tragedy to be made of that.

Supports Military, Industrial Cooperation

LD1309210894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1810 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Ukrainian Parliamentary Speaker Oleksandr Moroz supports the inclusion of the principle of the inviolability of borders in a large-scale treaty with Russia being prepared for signing. Speaking at a news conference in Kiev Tuesday, he said that the Russian-Ukrainian treaty on friendship, partnership and mutual assistance must be "thoroughly worked through" to make a "real rather than declarative agreement."

In particular, Moroz said that Ukraine should cooperate with Russia in the military and industrial spheres.

Speaking on the Crimean issue, Moroz said he hoped that the conflict between the legislative and executive branches of power on the peninsula would be solved in a peaceful and constitutional fashion.

In answer to an Interfax-Ukraine question, Moroz said Kiev needed a stabilization fund worth about $1.5 billion to successfully implement economic reforms. "Without this, inflation will not be kept down," he said.

Official on Treaty Talks With Russia

LD1309175694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev—Oleksandr Chalyy, the head of Ukraine's Foreign Ministry contractual and legal department, has commented on the second round of Russian-Ukrainian talks held in Moscow in preparation of the draft treaty on friendship, cooperation, and partnership between Ukraine and Russia. He said that the work on the treaty's 30 articles was more intense this time as the sides "took a deeper look at the most difficult issues."

The meeting, nevertheless, was held in the spirit of constructivism and willingness to work out a mutually beneficial solution, Chalyy said. Full agreement was reached on clauses concerning the legal status of ethnic minorities, Ukrainian language in Russia and Russian in Ukraine, space cooperation, and transit shipping.

The sides failed to agree on recognizing the countries' territorial integrity and dual citizenship. Chalyy said that there are no fundamental differences but mutually acceptable wording needed to be found. Russia does not insist any more on recognizing the inviolability of Ukraine's borders only within the CIS.

The sides agreed to hold the third round of negotiations in either late September or early October to resolve the rest of the issues. Chalyy believes that the work is going according to schedule and the treaty will be finalized in time for Boris Yeltsin's visit to Ukraine.

Little Progress in Black Sea Fleet Talks

LD1309180694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev—A regular round of talks between the Ukrainian and Russian delegations on the problems of the Black Sea Fleet held at the Pushcha-Ozerna sanatorium near Kiev has come to an end. The sides held about 10 meetings. No essential decisions were reached, however, other than to draw up a list of vessels that are to be divided.

As before, at the center of the experts' attention was the issue of where to base the fleets of the two states. One of the representatives of the Ukrainian delegation told a UNIAN correspondent that Ukraine's position is focused on Russia's basing its fleet at one site.

Ukraine's position on leasing some bays in Sevastopol to the Russian Federation for a 25-year term was worked out. In the words of the representative, Russia is insisting on a minimum term of 99 years.

Valentyn Lemish, the head of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers' department of defense and mobilization, told UNIAN that during the two days of talks documents had been defined which would be submitted for examination by heads of states and governments at the next meeting. Valentyn Lemish considers that it is up to the politicians and not the military men to come to a final decision on the problems of the Black Sea Fleet.

In the view of the representative of the Ukrainian delegation, no new approaches to resolving the issue of dividing the Black Sea Fleet's infrastructure emerged at the talks. In an interview with UNIAN, Volodymyr Mukhin, chairman of the Supreme Council for issues of defense and state security, said: "The stance of the Russian delegation at the talks remains, as before, brutal and unchanged. The representatives of the Russian delegation did not display any compromises or concessions."

Colonel General Ivan Bizhan, Ukraine's deputy defense minister, noted that where the key issues are concerned the Russian side is maintaining the same position that it adopted two years ago during the first meeting of the

Ukrainian and Russian presidents at Dagomys. "At those talks, which were quite difficult, our delegation was guided first and foremost by national interests," he said. In the words of Ivan Bizhan, the experts had agreed on insignificant technical details relating to the issues discussed.

On 13 September, during talks on the problems of the Black Sea Fleet, the heads of the delegations, who are, on the Ukrainian side Yevhen Marchuk, deputy prime minister for national security issues, and on the Russian side Yuriy Dubinin, ambassador at large, should sign a declaration of intent on the problems of the Black Sea Fleet.

It has been learned from confidential sources that a bill on the status of foreign troops on Ukraine's territory which was drawn up back in 1992 is to be discussed at a forthcoming session of the Supreme Council. In the view of observers, the adoption of this law by the parliament could contribute to the resolution of the Black Sea Fleet on the part of Moscow in a very short time.

Speaking about the results of the Ukrainian-Russian meeting, Yevhen Marchuk said in an interview with UNIAN that "the main turning point in the negotiating process occurred when both sides agreed that the process of creating two fleets had a final aim: To establish interaction and cooperation in the zone of the Black Sea basin."

Yuriy Dubinin expressed the certainty that the end result of the negotiating process on the problems of dividing the Black Sea Fleet will be appropriate to the new atmosphere which is developing in mutual relations between Russian and Ukraine.

Grachev Interference in Cadres Policy Criticized

AU1309171594 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 9 Sep 94 p 1

["Statement by the Press Service of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense"; date not given]

[Text] On 5 September 1994, the mass media disseminated an interview with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who raised the question of mutual relations with the new leadership of Ukraine's Defense Ministry.

Conspicuous in it is an attempt of interference into the cadres policy pursued by the military department of the neighboring state, into the disposition of the cadres, and their assessment. It is inadmissible from the point of view of the logic of the development of friendly relations between the two states, especially on the eve of the meeting between the two presidents.

The Defense Ministry Press Service is authorized to declare the readiness on the part of the new leadership to establish a constructive and diverse cooperation between the military departments of the two states. At the same time, it is worth emphasizing that the cadres policy at Ukraine's Defense Ministry will be conducted proceeding primarily from professional qualities, patriotism, and the ability to stand up for the interests of Ukraine's national security.

Defense Minister Shmarov, NATO Commander Discuss Relations

LD1309133094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0915 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev—Ukraine's Acting Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov and [General] George Joulwan, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, issued a joint statement today after their meeting which notes that relations between Ukraine's Ministry of Defense and NATO's Supreme Allied Command in Europe, which began in 1992, are continuing to develop and that they acquired a new quality after Ukraine joined NATO's Partnership for Peace program. "Ukraine is already, in fact, taking part in actions conducted by NATO within the framework of Partnership for Peace. At this time exercises by multinational peacekeeping forces are proceeding on the territory of Poland, at which Ukraine is represented by a motor rifle platoon. It is envisioned that Ukrainian servicemen will take part in exercises in the Netherlands and in naval exercises," the statement notes.

During the meeting the sides affirmed their desire to continue to develop cooperation. The Ukrainian side intends to take part in actions which NATO will be conducting within the framework of the Partnership [for Peace] and in accordance with a plan, the basic directions of which were discussed during a meeting with Colonel-General Anatoliy Lopata, chief of the Ukrainian General Staff and first deputy minister of defense.

Shmarov: Ukraine Not To Join NATO, CIS Bloc

LD1309214894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1835 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—Valeriy Shmarov, acting minister of defense and deputy prime minister held a joint news conference on 13 September with General George Joulwan, NATO's supreme allied commander for Europe. Shmarov told journalists that the main subject of their talks had been military cooperation and cooperation within the Partnership for Peace program.

"Whereas yesterday we considered the signing of the Partnership for Peace as a political maneuver, today we can see concrete areas for cooperation between Ukraine and NATO states in the military sphere," he said.

The acting defense minister said that although Ukraine's military doctrine had yet to be improved, it presently reflected the views of the state. Ukraine's Defense Ministry is currently working on "filling the Armed Forces with content": Creating the administrative structure, the troops, independent personnel training, etc.

Shmarov revealed the Ministry of Defense's view on Ukraine's NATO membership. According to its legislation, Ukraine is a nonaligned state, therefore it will refrain from membership either in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or the CIS military bloc.

Gen. Joulwan, NATO's supreme allied commander for Europe said that 22 countries had signed the Partnership for Peace program to date. Each of them develops its own working program of cooperation with NATO. He added that two Ukrainian officers would be visiting the program's coordinating committee in Mons in approximately a week.

Partnership Participation To Continue

LD1309202994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1806 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Ukraine will continue to take part in military exercises forming part of NATO's Partnership for Peace program, Ukrainian Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov and the commander-in-chief of NATO forces in Europe, General George Joulwan, said in a joint statement.

Ukrainian forces will shortly participate in exercises in the Netherlands and in joint naval exercises, says the statement, summing up a visit by Joulwan to Kiev.

The document says Ukraine will continue work on an individual program for itself to form part of the Partnership for Peace.

But Ukraine's involvement in the scheme "does not mean any big commitments to NATO," Shmarov said at a news conference in Kiev. "We are ready to quickly draw up our part of the scheme, but that doesn't mean that we'll be swiftly moving towards NATO," he said.

Joulwan said the North Atlantic alliance supported Ukraine's efforts to reduce its stockpiles of nuclear and conventional armaments and expressed the hope that the process would go ahead.

Kuchma Invites Mubarak for Official Visit

AU1309121694 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 10 Sep 94 p 1

[Unattributed report published under the rubric "Moment": "A Meeting at the Egyptian President's"]

[Text] On 7 September, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak received Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Ivan Kuras at the presidential palace in Cairo. I. Kuras handed to the Egyptian leader a personal message from Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma expressing our nation's new leadership's readiness to intensify Ukrainian-Egyptian relations in various spheres. The message also contains an invitation for the Egyptian leader to come to Ukraine on an official visit. The invitation was accepted with gratitude.

Delegation Visits Lebanon for Economic Talks

AU1309121894 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 10 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by the Press center of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs: "On a Visit to Lebanon"]

[Text] Yesterday, a Ukrainian government delegation headed by Vice Prime Minister Volodymyr Plitin left for Lebanon at the invitation of that country's government and business circles. The Ukrainian delegation includes representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Transport, and the "Ukrbud" [Ukrainian Building] Corporation. The program of the visit envisages holding meetings and negotiations with the leadership of Lebanon on questions of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Official Cited on Repayment of Foreign Debt

LD1309141694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev—Ukraine's total debt to international organizations amounts to $190 million. A UNIAN correspondent was told this by Volodymyr Khandohiy, head of the Foreign Ministry's international organization's directorate.

"A solution to the problem of debt repayment has its difficulties but I hope that by the end of the year Ukraine will pay off its share so as not to lose its vote at the United Nations," Volodymyr Khandohiy noted.

National Affairs

Reportage on Crimean Executive-Legislative Crisis

Kuchma Interviewed on Crimean Situation

LD1309224494 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Interview with President Leonid Kuchma by unidentified correspondent on 13 September—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] President Leonid Kuchma, the situation that has arisen in Crimea now concerns those who live not only in Ukraine but also outside it. You have just returned from Crimea. As they say, seeing is believing: What is your assessment of the confrontation in the Crimean republic?

[Kuchma] Yes, indeed, I made an attempt to have a holiday. However, I would never wish anybody to experience this, as they say.

Yes, the situation is extremely difficult both in economic and political terms, and I really hope that everything that happens in Crimea will be within the framework of the Constitution.

It happened so that at the beginning there was Crimea's Supreme Council that exceeded its powers and, instead of dealing with preparations for the winter... [pauses] while, indeed, it is most important to get ready for the winter. Compared to last year, Crimea from the economic viewpoint is only 9 percent as prepared for winter. Then, again, you and I know only too well that there has been a drought and as a result there is almost no fodder or anything else. The staff of many hospitals concerned with this are asking the presidents of both Ukraine and Crimea...[pauses] the average pay in Crimea today in reality is approximately 190,000 karbovantsi. So tell me please what should Crimea's Supreme Council and president deal with?

So I suggested that both branches of power at all costs prevent anything that would transgress the framework of our Ukrainian laws and come to the negotiation table and return, as they say, to the zero option. Both branches need to recognize the errors by both sides—I cannot see what else else can be done—and then engage in a normal process of negotiations in the presence of the plenipotentiary, as it were, Ukrainian president.

Both sides agreed. I had numerous conversations with both sides and this was what we agreed upon.

Right now, I am pleased that, given the situation, one side—I mean Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov—has overcome everything that has happened. Common sense has prevailed for now. Meshkov has agreed with the Ukrainian president's proposal that negotiations should begin, for confrontation will lead to nothing but the exacerbation of the political situation. Today, the Supreme Council started its work normally. The blockade was lifted...

[Correspondent, interrupting] of its building.

[Kuchma] Of its building and everything is working. In the morning, I talked with Supreme Council Chairman Tsekov and Meshkov. They again promised me that they would be friends. Let us wait and see.

[Correspondent] Yesterday, they imposed conditions upon each other. How are they today?

[Kuchma] There probably will still be many conditions today, as a Crimean Supreme Council session is under way now. I would like Ukraine, including Crimea, to know that earlier I talked with Russia's highest-ranking officials. I am pleased that the Russian leadership has adopted a very balanced attitude and actually told me that this is Ukraine's internal affair and that Ukraine and Crimea—our legislatures, the Supreme Councils—have to settle it together.

I have said this, too: Nobody should have the right to speculate, as it were, and nobody should think that there are some political forces on one side or the other.

Actually, what is happening there is simply the exacerbation of a power struggle. I do not regard it otherwise. Struggle, however, never does any good so I am glad that common sense has prevailed so far. Let us see what will happen in future.

[Correspondent] I hope there will be a settlement.

[Kuchma] I also hope so. There is no other way. If somebody hopes that this can be capitalized on in political terms, it is absolutely groundless. The situation is under control. Derkach, our first deputy chairman of security, and Deputy Interior Minister Yuriy Krashchenko are present. So let us work, for it is work alone, as it were, that will help us live normally. Nothing else.

[Correspondent] Many problems should be resolved rather than staging this confrontation.

[Kuchma] It is a great pity that problems... [pauses] I think that all people, including in Crimea, are sick and tired of this struggle. They want peace and normality.

Life had just begun to stabilize, including in Crimea... [pauses] for it is no big secret that after the presidential election in Ukraine holiday makers went to Crimea and there were a lot of people, which is money, revenue, including that of Crimea, and work for everybody young and old, as it were. If there is work and there is money, life is possible. I would like to recall that the Indian summer is there now so, on the contrary, peace and calm are needed for people to go there.

[Correspondent] Let us hope for the best.

[Kuchma] I realize that both the president and government must now help Crimea and Sevastopol in this difficult economic situation because, indeed, the dreadful drought that has not been seen for hundreds of years, has made the situation in Crimea worse. So we shall work on these problems with Crimea's executive and legislative branches. Every branch of power must (?do their best).

[Correspondent] Thank you for the interview.

[Kuchma] All the best.

[Correspondent] Goodbye.

Minin: Kuchma Prepared To Support Meshkov

LD1309115194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Telephone report by correspondent Yevgeniy Novikov from Simferopol]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] At 1200 I managed to reach Crimean Minister of State Viktor Minin. Minin said that the deputies had entered the parliament building by deception, having promised to return power to the president. Actually, however, the Supreme Soviet is demanding that [Crimean President Yuriy] Meshkov revoke his decrees of 9 September. Only in that case is the parliament ready to hold talks.

Minin also said that according to an agreement with Leonid Kuchma, if the Crimean parliament refuses to accept Yuriy Meshkov's conditions either a direct presidential rule of [Ukrainian President] Kuchma will be introduced in the Crimea, or the Ukrainian Supreme Council will disband the Crimean parliament.

According to Minin, the deputies are still blocking the TV center, in connection with which Kuchma promised Meshkov to strictly punish the heads of the power ministries for allowing the seizure of the Crimeam TV and radio company. Minin added that Meshkov, with the help of Kuchma, can take immediate measures against the parliament, and only reluctance to spill blood holds both presidents back from decisive actions.

Kuchma To Issue 'Tough Statement'

LD1309114594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1040 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, upon his arrival from the Crimea to Kiev on Tuesday, will issue a tough statement on the constitutional crisis in the Crimea, INTERFAX was told by Crimean Minister for State Affairs Viktor Minin. The Ukrainian president informed Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov of this in the morning on Tuesday during the latest telephone talk between the two leaders.

Minin said that in their phone conversations both on Monday night and Tuesday morning Kuchma and Meshkov analyzed in detail the developments in the Crimea over the past two days in the wake of the refusal by the parliament to obey Meshkov's decree on suspending its activities in response to the latter's decision to restrict presidential powers.

Kuchma and Meshkov also discussed variants for settling the situation.

It was proposed, for example, that the Crimean parliament cancel all its decisions concerning the limitation of presidential powers, and that subsequently the president annul his decrees dissolving the parliament. After this representatives of the president and the parliament in the presence of a Ukrainian president's representative, would begin talks to restore constitutional order and legality in the Crimea.

Minin expressed regret that the parliament does not accept the proposal by the Ukrainian president. Instead of talks with President Meshkov, said Minin, the Crimean parliament has announced its intention to debate the government's preparations for the winter and the economic situation.

To debate the economic issues in such a situation means, believes Minin, the desire to overthrow the government, which informed the parliament that it obeys the president and will not deliver a report at the session.

Kuchma Aide: Order Will Be Maintained

LD1309151694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1423 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Law and order will definitely be maintained in Crimea, Dmitry Tabachnik, the presidential chief of staff, told journalists in Kiev on September 12.

In his words, the Ukrainian president did not and could not support either side in the Crimean conflict.

Tabachnik described the statements of certain Crimean leaders to the effect that Kiev supported Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov as lies.

Tabachnik said that, in President Kuchma's view, the Crimean events were attributable to the worsening quarrel between the two branches of authority in the peninsula and to the fact that certain decisions made by the Crimean Supreme Soviet and president were inconsistent with the Ukrainian Constitution. He also believed that neither party had tried to resolve the conflict in a reasonable way.

Tabachnik believed that the Crimean leaders would have the common sense to repeal decisions that are not in line with the Ukrainian Constitution and to scale down the conflict. He made it clear that there was no need for the situation to degenerate into an armed conflict. Tabachnik said that the situation in Crimea was full control of the Ukrainian Army and interior ministry.

He emphasized that Kuchma wanted a peaceful solution to the conflict. Tabachnik said that if either branch of authority acts unlawfully in a way leading to an escalation of the conflict and to violence, the Ukrainian president would take steps to protect the Crimean population and disarm the extremists, whoever they supported.

'Direct Rule' by Kuchma Seen Unlikely

MM1309160594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

["Own Information" report: "Crimea: Crisis Abating?"]

[Text] Hopes have appeared of a relaxation in the constitutional crisis in Crimea. The Crimean parliamentary deputies have once again taken their seats in the Supreme Council building.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma is trying to resolve the constitutional crisis in Crimea, where a power struggle is going on between the local president and parliament. He met with Crimean President Meshkov and parliamentary Chairman Tsekov and urged them not to resort to force.

In an interview with UKRINFORMTASS, Tabachnik, chief of the Ukrainian Presidential Staff, expressed the confidence that direct rule by the Ukrainian president would not have to be introduced in Crimea. According to him the Ukrainian militia is taking up position in

Simferopol and other cities on the peninsula in order to prevent clashes between supporters of the president and parliament.

Kuchma Stance on Conflict Defined

AU1309124394 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 10 Sep 94 p 2

[Undated "Statement by Press Secretary of the Ukrainian President" Mykhaylo Doroshenko]

[Text] The president of Ukraine is attentively following the development of events in the Crimea. The tension that is building in relations between the Supreme Council, the president, and the Crimean government gives rise to concern and alarm. While understanding the objective reasons for the deterioration of mutual relations between the autonomy's executive and legislative bodies, including shortcomings in the current legislation, the president expresses regret in connection with the unjustified exacerbation of the aforementioned differences.

There is no doubt that the political confrontation in the Crimea has very little in common with the true interests of the people, who are mainly anxious about supplies of water, foodstuffs, and heating.

The power crisis that is intensifying in the autonomy will only further complicate the resolution of these vital problems.

The president of Ukraine sincerely hopes that the Crimean president, deputies of the republic's Supreme Council, and members of the government will show enough wisdom and political will to refrain from illegal ways of resolving differences, rise above political intrigue, and jointly get down to work.

Besides, Crimean political figures and the people must be assured that the Ukrainian president sees to it that the confrontation does not develop into violent conflict or anything else that endangers people's life or security, or violates the constitutional order of Ukraine.

Support for Meshkov 'Less Than 10%'

LD1309130094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1120 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Simferopol, 13 September—Yuriy Prozorov, a candidate of sciences and the head of the Crimean sociological service, said in a conversation with a UNIAR correspondent that a poll among the autonomous republic's citizens was conducted on the evening of 12 September and the morning of 13 September. The results are being worked out. According to preliminary data, [Crimean] President Meshkov is supported by less than 10 percent of those questioned (two weeks ago in another poll the figure was 18.6 percent.) The Supreme Council's rating is over 60 percent (two weeks ago the figure was 56 percent).

Meshkov Attends Parliament Session

LD1309181394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] President Yuriy Meshkov of Crimea who waited for the start of talks with Parliament Chairman Sergey Tsekov on Tuesday was invited to attend a parliamentary session opening in Simferopol at 15:00 Moscow Time on Tuesday. Meshkov has accepted the invitation.

Addressing a crowd of people outside the parliamentary building, Meshkov has once again said he is ready to return to a zero option. This provides for the annulment of the presidential decree on dissolving parliament which in turn is expected to rescind its own resolution on curtailing presidential powers.

It is now known that preparations of the regional economy for the coming winter was the sole question on the house agenda as indicated in the text of the parliamentary invitation to Meshkov.

In an interview with Interfax, Minister of State Affairs Viktor Minin said that instead of discussing ways of breaking the current deadlock, the parliament wants to get the resignation of the president-backed government led by Yevgeniy Saburov so as to isolate Meshkov.

He also said the president had twice offered Tsekov to sit down at the negotiating table, but there had been no response.

The minister said Meshkov in two telephone conversations with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma had briefed him on what was happening.

Meshkov-Tsekov Meeting Fails To Materialize

LD1409103694 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] A meeting between President Yuriy Meshkov of Crimea and parliamentary chairman Serhiy Tsekov failed to take place this morning. Yesterday, parliament instructed the speaker to hold such a meeting before the start of this morning's session. The Crimean parliament's press center reported that three deputies have been sent to meet with President Meshkov. They are to report to the session on the results of the conversation after which an appropriate decision will be adopted.

At the morning session of the Crimean Supreme Council, deputies are discussing a draft law on Crimea's government. It envisions the creation of another 13 ministries in the autonomy.

Parliament Postpones Decision on Talks

LD1309164494 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The Crimean Supreme Council press center reports that the autonomy's president, Yuriy Meshkov, delivered a speech to the members of parliament on 13

September. He said that Supreme Council Chairman Serhiy Tsekov failed to comply with the achieved agreements on the settlement of the constitutional crisis. He called on the parliament for a dialogue. In his turn, the parliament speaker stressed that there had been no agreements between himself and President Meshkov. The session postponed a decision on talks between the president and the Supreme Council until after a meeting between Meshkov and Tsekov. Deputies set up a commission of the Crimean Supreme Council to inquire into the events that took place on the peninsula on 11-13 September.

Deputies Divided at Supreme Council Session

LD1309222494 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2100 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Simferopol, 13 Sep—At a session of the Supreme Council of Crimea, Serhiy Tsekov, Supreme Council chairman, stated that it was the people from the presidential entourage—above all those from the security and interstate relations service under the Republic of Crimea president—that were behind the events of the past few days. Deputies' views on ways to settle the conflict divided, ranging from applying the zero option, proposed by the president of Ukraine, to "punishing" and "impeaching" the president of the autonomy "on the basis of a decision by the Republic of Crimea Supreme Court presidium under whose consideration the issue of the constitutionality of directives by the Republic of Crimea president now is."

The Supreme Council of Crimea passed a resolution "On forming a Supreme Council of Crimea commission for the investigation of the anticonstitutional events that took place between 11 and 13 September," led by Viktor Mezhak, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea. Members of the commission are authorized to interrogate officials and other citizens who were involved in the 11-13 September events. The procurator is empowered to seize documents relating to anticonstitutional actions. The heads of all enterprises, organizations, and departments must at the request of the commission's members provide the necessary documents. The commission is to report its findings to the Supreme Council of Crimea within a 10-day term.

The Crimean Supreme Council's second resolution invalidates from the moment of its passage the directive by the Crimean president "On appointing heads of local state executive power in rayons and towns" as anticonstitutional.

Supreme Council Rejects 'Zero Option'

LD1309144894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1358 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow, 13 Sep ITAR-TASS—The presidium of the Crimean Supreme Council has not given its consent to the "zero option." As the "Ekho Moskvy" radio station stated this evening, Viktor Minin, the Crimean minister for affairs of the state, said: "The majority of the presidium insists on Meshkov's resignation."

Parliament To Investigate 10-13 Sep Events

LD1309145494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The Crimean parliament's presidium will set up a commission for investigating the events of September 10-13, to be led by the parliament's Vice Speaker Viktor Bizhan. The commission will include representatives of the Prosecutor General's Office, the ministries of the interior and justice, and parliament deputies.

After an investigation is carried out, the commission will announce the results and give a legal evaluation of the authorities' actions.

In addition to this, the presidium will submit to parliament a draft law on Crimean Government. The parliamentary session is to begin at 15:00 [1100 GMT], Moscow time, on Tuesday.

The parliament's staff announced that the parliament will begin its session by discussing the recent events. Subsequently, the resignation of the "Moscow government" led by Yevgeniy Saburov, will be considered.

By decision of the presidium, the parliament building will be guarded by a unit subordinated to the Ukrainian Interior Ministry and to the Crimean parliament. The president, the parliament speaker and the head of the government will be guarded by special units also subordinated to the Ukrainian Interior Ministry and to Chief of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry's Department for Crimea Vitaliy Kirichenko.

Earlier, the Crimean parliament building, which accommodated the parliament and the president's staff, was guarded by a presidential security service.

The same source informed Interfax that on September 9, Crimean Parliament Speaker Serhiy Tsekov and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma agreed on a "zero option" for a solution to the problem of who Crimean police are to be subordinated to. Under this option the Ukrainian Interior Ministry's Department for Crimea and the Crimean Interior Ministry would be eliminated. In the future, the Crimean Interior Ministry will be restored and be subordinated to the Crimean parliament and Ukrainian Interior Ministry, as was the case before May 1994, when Ukrainian ex-president Leonid Kravchuk disbanded the Crimean Interior Ministry.

Deputy Says Leadership Conflict 'Pre-Planned'

LD0909201594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1845 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—In an interview with a UNIAN correspondent today, People's Deputy Mykola Porovskyy, the chairman of the "Crimea with Ukraine" Committee, said that, in his opinion, the aggravation of relations between Crimea's President Yuriy Meshkov and Supreme Council Chairman Serhiy Tsekov was pre-planned. "The scenario devised by the Crimean leaders is aimed at triggering gunfire between the presidential structures and those of the Supreme Council. When the conflict gains momentum, according to the plans of Meshkov and Tsekov, Ukraine's armed Forces on the one hand, and the 126th Black Sea Fleet division, stationed under the Russian colors on the other, will inevitably be involved in it," pointed out Mykola Porovskyy.

"The Supreme Council of Ukraine must cancel Crimea's territorial autonomy and set up three national-territorial formations on its territory: A Crimean Tatar autonomy, a Russian autonomy, and Ukraine's Crimean Oblast. This is the only way today toward a relatively painless solution to the Crimean issue," Mykola Porovskyy said.

Deputies Criticize Meshkov on TV

LD1309142194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0915 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text]**Simferopol—Crimean parliamentarians were granted live air time on crimean television in the evening of 12 September.**

After a meeting with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, Mykhaylo Bakharyev, a member of Crimea's Supreme Council Presidium and leader of the "Russia" bloc, called the assertion by [Crimean President] Yuriy Meshkov that he had supposedly coordinated his actions with the leadership of Ukraine and Russia (UNIAN reported this on 12 September) untrue.

Refat Chubarov, leader of the Crimean Tatar People's Kurultay Group, believes that neither the president nor parliament can boast about what they have done for Crimea. "No one, not even the president, can violate the Constitution. If he has done this, then he should resign himself or he will be dismissed."

Viktor Minin, who heads Crimea's state affairs service, maintains that Leonid Kuchma supports Yuriy Meshkov, "otherwise the Ukrainian militia would not be guarding the Crimean president."

At 2000 local time on 12 September an appeal by Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov to Ukraine's Supreme Council Presidium was read on television.

In it he maintains that the parliament's activity was "of an extremist and destructive nature, which could have led to attempts to get Crimea to forcibly leave the composition of Ukraine." "Crimea's president and government frequently took measures to halt this process. A result was criticism of them for not wishing to implement the Russian-Crimean idea or to rely on the pro-Ukrainian nomenclature. [sentence as received] Pragmatic attempts to conduct reforms...[UNIAN ellipses] led to criticism and demands for the resignation of the "Moscow government".

During a meeting with Leonid Kuchma's assistant Viktor Minin, head of Crimea's state affairs service, agreed with the expediency of a specialL representative of the president of Ukraine participating in the work of a coordinative commission.

The press service of Ukraine's president reported that a meeting was held in the evening of 12 September between Oleksandr Razumkov, first assistant to the president, and Viktor Minin, minister and head of the Crimean republic's state affairs service.

Viktor Minin reported Yuriy Meshkov's support for the proposals by the president of Ukraine concerning measures to stabilize the political situation in Crimea. He called on Crimea's Supreme Council deputies to return to the legal position which existed before 7 September this year. Crimea's president is prepared to begin talks concerning overcoming the constitutional crisis on these principles.

Viktor Minin agreed with the expediency of a special representative of the president of Ukraine taking part in the work of a coordinative commission. In his opinion, this step by the Crimean republic's president deserves support and is a display of readiness to compromise by one of the conflicting sides.

The president of Ukraine hopes that the Crimean republic's Supreme Council will also take a step forward [toward the Crimean president] thus helping to remove the threat of civic conflict in Crimea and show responsibility to its electors.

A popular assembly took place in Sevastopol on 12 September, at which Crimea's Supreme Council was unanimously supported and the actions of Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov were condemned. A session of the city council took place in Feodosiya, which also expressed itself in favor of the Crimean parliament.

During the night of 12-13 September deputies and law enforcement bodies conducted intensive talks with the parliament guard. On 13 September access to Crimea's Supreme Council building was allowed. At 1100 local time an open session of Crimea's Supreme Council Presidium began. It is expected that plenary sessions of the Crimean parliament will resume at 1500 [1100 GMT].

Interior Minister on Seizure of Media Facility

LD1309115794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1131 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The Crimean TV and radio center in Simferopol on Monday morning was seized by "Yalta Cossacks deceived by the parliament and backed by the Ukrainian Interior Ministry," Viktor Minin, Crimean Minister for State Affairs, told Interfax.

Subsequently, said Minin, the TV and radio center was used by the parliament for anti-president propaganda.

President Yuriy Meshkov does not wish to address TV viewers, according to the minister, because he wants to avoid turning the constitutional crisis into a battle between the president and the parliament speaker.

Interfax has learned that supporters of the Crimean president asked chief of the Yalta Cossacks to restore the president's control over the TV center.

Security Around Crimea Stepped Up

LD1309161794 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Yuriy Meshkov and the Crimean Parliament share the responsibility for the rise in tension in the republic, since they both breached the legal bounds of the Ukrainian Constitution, chairman Oleksandr Moroz told a sitting of Ukraine's Supreme Council.

The power crisis has led to a rise in the activities of the criminal elements in Crimea, Ukrainian Interior Minister Volodymyr Radchenko said at the parliament sitting. In view of this security in the Kerch straits, which separates the peninsula from Russia, as well as on roads, at air and sea ports, has been stepped up.

Moroz Favors 'Null Variant' in Crimea

LD1309191294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1842 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko, Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev September 13 TASS—The null variant is the most acceptable way to overcome the crisis in relations of the Crimean legislative and executive authorities," Ukrainian Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz said here today.

A parliament session will discuss the Crimean situation and take the final decision on September 15, said Moroz. "I think this decision will help stabilize situation in the Crimea and outside it," noted the speaker.

In his words, the session will also focus on the resolution of the Sevastopol city council that gives Sevastopol the status of a Russian city. In the opinion of Moroz, the resolution will be canceled bearing in mind the Sevastopol deputies have broken all the current norms and laws.

Rukh Seeks Restitution of Crimea Within Ukraine

LD1409004894 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2100 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Odessa, 13 Sep—The Greater Council of Rukh session issued an address to Ukraine's president and Supreme Council. The full text of the statement is as follows:

"The fierce confrontation between local branches of power in Crimea causes concern and anxiety. The escalation of the conflict in the peninsula's top leadership poses a serious threat to the security of Crimea's population and increases tension not only in the region but also on the European continent.

"Developments demonstrate that behind both parties of the conflict are forces of the mafia currently contesting the license to plunder the population uncontrollably.

"Under the slogans of independence, anti-Ukrainian sentiments were spoon-fed and the activity of groups generously supported by a neighboring state was in every way encouraged in Crimea. We believe that the conviction is now growing among the Crimean electorate that Crimea's independence from Ukraine means the independence of the criminal lobby from Ukrainian laws.

"The activity of both of Crimea's branches of power that grow from the same secessionist root is equally harmful to the peninsula's population.

"The authorities of Crimea made an unlawful attempt to place it without the jurisdiction of the Constitution of Ukraine. Yuriy Meshkov's legal arbitrariness and disregard for Crimea's Constitution are a logical result of this.

"The most important task of Ukraine's top leadership under these conditions is to protect the population of Crimea, ensure stability in the social situation in the region, and preserve Ukraine's territorial integrity.

"We are of the opinion that while Crimea's Supreme Council grossly violated the Ukrainian Constitution and cannot claim the status of a legislature, President Yuriy Meshkov, whose election contravened the Ukrainian constitution and whose activity provoked confrontation between Crimea and the Ukrainian state and inflamed animosity among Crimea's population, must be removed from the leadership of the autonomy. We suggest that Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma introduce presidential rule on the territory of Crimea to safeguard peace, law, and order in the peninsula. Meanwhile the Ukrainian Supreme Council should address the question of the situation in Crimea as a matter of priority, dissolve Crimea's parliament, and abolish the peninsula's territorial autonomy, thus gradually creating conditions for the indigenous Crimean Tartar population and all ethnic groups to realize their natural rights.

"Ukraine's highest-ranking state authorities are today examining their ability to prevent chaos on the territory of our state and defend Ukraine's national interests. If the president or the Supreme Council fail to pass it, they will thus admit that they are politically bankrupt.

"We call on Ukraine's president and Supreme Council to demonstrate resolve and take an expressly consistent position on the Crimean problem. At issue is the protection of the people, peace and calm in the region, and the Ukrainian state's national interests and prestige."

Communists Hit 'Anticonstitutional' Meshkov

LD1309195594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Ukraine's Communist Party has protested against the "anticonstitutional" steps of Crimea's President Yuriy Meshkov, who has recently dissolved the parliament and local councils of the Ukrainian peninsular autonomy.

In a statement released in Kiev on Tuesday, the party demands that the Ukrainian leadership bring the situation in Crimea "into line with the constitutions of Ukraine and Crimea."

"The decrees issued by the president of Crimea on September 11 not only suspend the Crimean parliament but are aimed at wiping out all bodies of Soviet government in the peninsula," the statement reads in part.

Meshkov, "having failed to win support for his reckless policy from the Crimean parliament, decided to establish his own autocracy and get rid of the soviets (councils) into the bargain," the document goes on.

Meshkov's actions "contradict not only the constitution of Crimea but also that of Ukraine," and "can be qualified as nothing else than a coup d'etat, which may have unpredictable consequences," the party concludes.

Communists Urge Kuchma To Take Firm Stand

LD1209211594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1830 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Simferopol [no date as received]—Speaking live on Crimean television at 1715, Leonid Hrach, first secretary of the Crimean Communist Party republican committee and a Crimean Supreme Council deputy, accused Yuriy Meshkov and the government of the republic of "casting Crimea into a whirlpool of bloody score-settling." He said that any fight for power and territories ends up in a war, while domination of national-patriotic feelings in elections leads to dictatorship and, eventually, to fascism. Hrach sees the "zero option" in full restoration of Crimea's current Constitution.

"As a citizen and political party leader, I wish to remind Kuchma that he is the guarantor of the Constitution on the entire territory of Ukraine, including Crimea," said the Crimean Communist leader. "I urge him to clearly state his attitude toward the developments, because Meshkov often claims that his actions are approved by Kuchma."

Crimea Political Struggle Updated

MM1309160194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Nikolay Semena: "Crimean President's U-Turn—Yu. Meshkov Seeks Support From L. Kuchma"]

[Text] Simferopol—On 12 September the development of the Crimean constitutional crisis depended entirely upon the stance and actions of the leaders of Ukraine. The emergency session of the Crimean Supreme Council which is continuing in the building of the prosecutor's office adopted a decision to invite to its sitting Ukrainian President L. Kuchma, and Crimean Supreme Council Chairman S. Tsekov and a group of deputies took this decision to him at the state dacha near Yalta. On his own initiative, Crimean President Yu. Meshkov also requested a meeting with him. In Kiev, meanwhile, the Ukrainian Supreme Council Presidium was also discussing the Crimean question.

It could be said that S. Tsekov left one Simferopol to go to the meeting with L. Kuchma and returned five hours later to a different city. In his absence the deputies through their own forces and without the participation of the militia lifted the blockade on the building of the television center and the radio station. The television, which prior to this had remained silent, began regular broadcasting of news summaries about the situation in the republic. The president's edicts and decisions of the Supreme Council were read out.

For the second time in one day, a Communist Party rally took place outside the building of the prosecutor's office. At it a Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Presidium statement describing the actions of Yu. Meshkov as a coup d'etat was read out along with a statement by the Communist Party of the Russian Federation Central Executive Committee urging the branches of Crimean power to resume dialogue and to give everybody the chance to exercise their constitutional powers.

Yu. Meshkov made a brief appearance before his supporters, who can be constantly found outside the Supreme Council building, and he delivered a short speech in which he accused the Supreme Council deputies of restricting the president's power and impeding economic reforms. He issued an edict on involving deputies who have been dismissed onto the presidential council—a special consultative-advisory organ.

Having returned to the session after the meeting with L. Kuchma, S. Tsekov told deputies and journalists that a report from V. Minin regarding the Ukrainian president's support for Yu. Meshkov's actions, which he gave out at a press conference in the middle of the day, does not correspond to reality. L. Kuchma proposed three options for getting out of the crisis: A return to the zero option, whereby the Supreme Council and the president together rescind contentious decisions; the creation by mutual decision of a coordinating commission; and he also offered by way of a mediator a representative acting on his behalf. He left the choice of option to the branches of Crimean power.

A speech by Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman A. Moroz was also broadcast, in which he said that the Ukrainian parliament "is not placing responsibility for the development of events on any one of the branches of power. We are saying that the Crimean Supreme Council and president have gone beyond the bounds of the constitutional field in the Crimea."

A statement by the Ukrainian Supreme Council Presidium says: "...the presidium insists that the Republic of Crimea president rescind his unlawful decisions, and reiterates the demand to the Crimean Supreme Council for a revision of those decisions which do not accord with the Constitution and laws of Ukraine." The Ukrainian Supreme Council recommended that the Crimean Parliament "strengthen its influence over the executive and make fuller use of local personnel potential."

In the evening Crimean Supreme Council Presidium Member M. Bakharev noted on television that "Yu. Meshkov's jurisdiction now extends only to the Supreme Council building. [no closing quotemarks as published]

At around 2300 deputies Yu. Podkopayev and A. Morozov read out a bombshell document on television. It seems that Yu. Meshkov sought support from the Ukrainian president and its Supreme Council, and he wrote an appeal to him accusing the Crimean Supreme Council of creating a situation whereby its actions "could lead to an attempt at the forcible withdrawal of the Crimea from the body of Ukraine. The president and the government of the Crimea have repeatedly taken steps to halt this process...." In it, Yu. Meshkov placed the responsibility for the "Russian Crimean idea" on "deputies with the most ardently pro-Russian inclinations"—that is, his own colleagues in the "Rossiya" bloc. The deputies' indignation was prompted by the fact this was written by a president who won glory for his "pro-Moscow policy" and was victorious at the elections under the flag of the Russian idea. At the end of the letter, Yu. Meshkov expressed words of gratitude and thanks for the "understanding and support," even though, prior to this, he used to love to criticize nationalistic Kiev harshly and uncompromisingly.

At the end of the parliamentary day the deputies decided that they can only conduct talks with Yu. Meshkov on condition that he rescind his edicts and restore their status, and that it be compulsory that they be held in the parliament building.

At 1930 13 September, S. Tsekov telephoned and announced that the Supreme Council building has been liberated and the deputies can continue to work in their normal places. The decision on lifting the blockade of the building was probably made at around 0300, it is suggested, by the president himself.

At 1100 in the Supreme Council building, the Supreme Council Presidium began work, and the session was scheduled to resume at 1500. The Supreme Council's stance in respect of the president is being elaborated.

Infighting 'Strongly Reminiscent' of Moscow 1993

MM1309141194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[Commentary by correspondent Eduard Dolya: "Will the Crimea Explode?"]

[Text] There are no tanks on the streets of Simferopol (perhaps because President Meshkov simply doesn't have them?). The large-scale war between Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov and the parliament elected "under him" is being waged for the time being by means of small-scale rallies and the militia who keep a close watch on them. Rally participants standing on the square in front of the republic prosecutor's offiice (where 70 of the 98 Supreme Council deputies are in session) coarsely abuse the president for having dissolved parliament and for the big problems that exist in the personal lives of every inhabitant of the Crimea.

Meanwhile, problems whose solution the president and government and Speaker Sergey Tsekov and the opposition accuse each other of sabotaging also by all appearances form part of the conflict between the two branches of power on the peninsula. Many observers link Meshkov's attempts to obtain even greater power in order to acquire the full right to send parliament and the local councils packing with the presidential team's desire to approach the "privatization of the Crimea" in earnest. The question of land and the freedom to be in complete charge of it is a considerably more pressing concern to the Crimea than, for example, the central belt of Russia: Land is worth more here.

It is remarkable how parliament, the majority of seats in which was quite recently won by people from the Republican Party of the Crimea, created by Meshkov, and his right-hand man in charge of party work, who was elected chairman of the Supreme Council, have fallen out in a matter of months. The cause of the mutual detestation, ill concealed today by either side, is certainly the acquisition of ministerial portfolios by those who brought Meshkov to power. Vice Premier Yevgeniy Saburov handed them out to Muscovites. And the "campaign," which was launched by parliament merely to replace the cabinet, gradually accelerated into open confrontation.

Most likely only the president's "surrender" of his premier will be able peacefully to resolve the situation on the peninsula. However, even this "minor bloodletting" will, it seems, no longer work: Meshkov has gone too far, in the opposition's opinion, in his desire to usurp the Crimea, his arrogance has gone beyond bounds. He has too blatantly ignored the Supreme Council of late, including publicly slapping one of its deputies, the Sevastopol billionaire Sergey Kondrateyevskiy, in the face. "For insulting a lady in the president's presence," as the head of the Republic of the Crimea explained to its people.

In August 1991 the whole country listened to Swan Lake. In September '94 the whole of the Crimea listens to poems by and songs set to the words of Taras Shevchenko [19th-century Ukrainian romantic poet]. Local radio and television are not on the air—the Krym Television and Radio Company building has been sealed off by men of the Ukrainian Security Services in the Crimea. It seems that certain newspapers won't come out on Tuesday—the Security Services control the Tavrida Publishing House's printing plant in Simferopol.

And again the Crimean problem is strongly reminiscent of the situation in Moscow last year, when the president and the parliament "outlawed" each other. As people know, the confrontation lasted two weeks—until the sides' nerves gave out. What this resulted in for ordinary Russians is well known—innocent blod was shed. Will the tragedy really be repeated? God forbid....

One way or another, peaceful coexistence has reigned to date in all the cities and rayon centers on the peninsula between the heads of administration, appointed by the president, and the local self-management bodies, sent packing by Meshkov, which pay little heed to the heads of administration.

It is not clear as yet which of the two main players in the conflict—Meshkov or Tsekov—the people will dispatch, or in which direction.

Nor is it clear whether the Crimea will see the launching of a storm of the "White House" and a large-scale civil war or whether the president and the speaker will be able to reach agreement on the rights to land, freedom, and a place in the sun.

Moroz on Forthcoming Supreme Council Session

LD1309215294 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Excerpts] As we reported before, Ukraine's Supreme Council will begin its second session on 15 September. Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz held a news conference today. Iryna Shvets has the details. [passage omitted]

[Shvets] The Supreme Council speaker offered his comments on the Ukrainian president's August edicts on the division of power. He dispelled fears that they could signal the start of an open conflict between the two branches of power.

[Begin Moroz recording] In relation to the presidential edicts, the president acted within the framework of the Constitution which entitles him to undertake such personnel reshuffles, and I believe that the Supreme Council's part in this will be carried out accordingly. I hope that our decision on this will take into account the need to develop and implement a unified policy. I regard these edicts as the implementation of a power function which currently belongs to the president. As for the edicts on power bodies and, for example, the resubordination of executive committee chairmen as local top executives to the president, this had been previously agreed in the law on local councils. I met oblast council chairmen last Saturday [10 September], and they confirmed again that this is an element of the executive structure which society needs today.

I think we will strike a balance with other power branches, as envisaged by the law, and therefore there is no danger of totalitarianism. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Shvets] Oleksandr Moroz refuted rumors that Leonid Kuchma intends to announce his new economic program at the beginning of the parliament's second session. He did not deny, however, that the president will present his vision on the future development of Ukraine's economy. The text of his address will be circulated among deputies for discussion beforehand. This will not be a program, but rather a package of proposals on the part of the Ukrainian president.

Another important problem which Oleksandr Moroz touched upon at the news conference was the issue of granting official status to the Russian language. The Supreme Council chairman said, and I quote: We already have a law on languages. This issue has not been put on the session agenda separately. He did not rule out, however, that the issue could yet be included in the agenda if any parliamentary group or individual deputy should propose so. There is, according to Moroz, another way: The issue could be settled in the new Ukrainian Constitution, and a clause to this effect, if adopted, will have a legitimate place in the Constitution. In the meantime, a special commission of lawyers and experts in the field is studying the problem.

Many journalists were curious to know whether the Supreme Council is intending to make any decision on privatization, in view of the approaching month-and-a-half deadline for the listing of facilities subject to privatization due this month. Oleksandr Moroz assured the audience that the issue is on the agenda for the session of 21 September.

Meanwhile, in the near future, which, according to the Supreme Council chairman, will be on 15 or 20 September, the parliament will answer another painful question and express its official attitude to the notorious resolution of Sevastopol town council. Speaking on behalf of the Supreme Council, Oleksandr Moroz told the news conference, and I quote: The Supreme Council is not about to make Sevastopol heroes out of them. We will annul Sevastopol council's decision. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Reports on Budget, Production Crisis

AU1309082594 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 3 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by unidentified DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA correspondent: "Forecasts for the Year 1994. The Decline in Production Will Continue"]

[Text] A news conference was held at the Cabinet of Ministers. The journalists were briefed on questions that had been discussed at the recent government session. In particular, on results of the fulfillment of Ukraine's state budget in the first half of 1994 and proposals for adjusting the main indexes of the plan for Ukraine's economic and social development in the current year according to the results of work in the first half of the year. Minister of finance Petro Hermanchuk and minister of economy Roman Shpek commented upon the main indexes that characterize the economic situation. It was pointed out that, during the first months of the current year, a sharp decline in production occurred in all branches of the national economy. In the first half of the year, the gross domestic product decreased by 26.5 percent against the corresponding period of 1993; the produced national income fell by 28.5 percent.

Notwithstanding a certain improvement in the performance of the national economy in May and June, some factors, shaping crisis phenomena in the economy, continue to prevail. These are, in particular, an increase of prices overtaking that of wages, a lower demand for manufactured products in view of the absence of funds for financial settlements, a decline in the currency market, and so on. The financial situation in the national economy remains complicated. Large sums of circulating capital are spent on the creation of extra reserves of ready products and other commodity and material products.

Due to the crisis phenomena, budgets at all levels received much less capital than planned. For example, profits of Ukraine's consolidated budget in the first half of the year constituted 153.6 trillion karbovantsi [K], whereas expenditure amounted to K177.2 trillion. In connection with the failure to fulfill much of the income part of the budget, the financing of measures planned for the current year was also conducted on an emergency basis with great limitations.

What needs to be done in order to stop the decline in production and to improve the financial situation of enterprises and organizations? It is necessary, in particular, to normalize the amount of the circulating capital and to strengthen control over budget expenditure, receipts of taxes, dues, and other payments to the state budget. It is all the more necessary to take these measures since the decline will continue. It is forecast that, by the end of 1994, the produced national income will decrease. In particular, electricity production will decrease by 14 percent (relative to that planned), rolled ferrous metals—by 28 percent, coal—by 18 percent, automobiles—by approximately 30 percent, and agricultural products—by 11.2 percent.

The amended draft main indexes of the plan will be discussed at a Supreme Council session.

New Vice Premier Appointed, Profiled

AU1309112494 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 10 Sep 94 p 2

["Ukrainian Presidential Edict on Appointing I. Mityukov as Ukraine's Vice Prime Minister" issued in Kiev on 8 Sep; biographical information on I.O. Mityukov provided by the Ukrainian Presidential Press Service]

[Text] To appoint MITYUKOV, Ihor Oleksandrovych as Ukraine's vice prime minister for issues of financial and banking activity. [Signed] Ukrainian President L. Kuchma
[Dated] Kiev, 8 September 1994

Mityukov, Ihor Oleksandrovych was born in Kiev in 1952. Ukrainian. He received higher education at Kiev T.G. Shevchenko State University. His profession is mathematical economy. He has a scientific degree of candidate of economic sciences.

He worked as an engineer, scientific associate at Ukraine's Academy of Sciences Economics Institute, economic adviser, chief of department, chief of the administration for international settlements and monetary transactions at the bank of the joint-stock association "Ukrayina," and deputy chairman of the board of the aforementioned bank.

He was recently deputy chairman of the board of Ukraine's National Bank.

Mityukov is married and has a daughter.

Kuchma Blamed for Failure To Implement Reforms

AU1309201994 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 9 Sep 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "What's on the President's Mind?"]

[Text] Despite the temporary improvement of the economic situation in Ukraine, the decline in production has started again, the deterioration of the finance and credits system is continuing, and the payments crisis is intensifying. Over the past half-year, the total volume of Ukraine's external trade had a negative balance of $546.2 million, and in the trade with CIS countries, such a negative balance exceeded $1.5 billion.

God knows how the Ukrainian Government is going to repay the debts. For example, in accordance with the report by the Cabinet of Ministers economic administration "On Ukraine's Economic Situation in January-July 1994," the production of rolled iron and pipes amounted to 69 and 39.6 percent of the production volumes during the corresponding period of the last year. The volume of production of the chemical and petrochemical enterprises decreased by 36.2 percent, and in machine building by 47.5 percent. The situation is even worse in the coal-extraction complex. The aforementioned industries are the main suppliers of [hard] currency to the state treasury.

Perhaps the Ukrainian president, who has also assumed responsibility for economic reforms, knows what Ukraine needs in order to emerge from the crisis. However, for some reason, his team does not seem to be in any hurry to announce the package of reforms which the voters looked forward to so much during the presidential elections campaign....

Unemployment Rate 'Stabilized' at 33%

LD1309201094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1759 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev September 13 TASS—The unemployment rate in Ukraine has stabilised at 33 percent of the republic's work force over the past three months, and experts reckon the figure is unlikely to grow further. However, the 92,000 persons who have officially registered as unemployed do not add up to that much.

Kiev's official unemployment figure is 3,000, and though the city's employment service now has 15,000 jobs to offer, the jobless are in no hurry to apply.

Most of them are benefitting better from the dole, ITAR-TASS was told by sources in the service. Some are reluctant to accept new jobs because they cannot meet education requirements or lack adequate vocational training, some reject new jobs because the workplace is too far from home.

Wages are the main snag, however. The wages offered by state- owned enetrprises, the main employers, are sometimes inferior to the dole. Nonetheless, 50,000 enterprises of Kiev keep duly paying the mandatory three percent of their consumer funds towards the municipal employment fund.

Many interviewed unemployed said they would like a job in a business at home or, still better, abroad. However, domestic businesses rarely turn to the employment service for help, while the West shows no interest in Ukrainian labour.

An average dole in Ukraine now is 240,000 karbovanets (about four dollars), which is three times less than a monthly average wage.

Official Views Financial, Currency Policy

WS1409114594 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 31 Aug 94 p 3

[Interview with Viktor Suslov, chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council Commission for Issues of Finance and Banking Activity, by Vasyl Tuhluk; place and date not given: "Mistakes Cost Us Too Much"]

[Text] [Suslov] The public perception that the Supreme Council deputies promised a lot but have done nothing is growing. The Supreme Council has done what it could do. As chairman of one of its economic commissions, I am not satisfied with statements issued by the "Reforms" faction claiming that we have not resolved a single economic issue. Our commission held a great number of sessions and worked very hard to achieve our goals. Some Supreme Council decrees have resolved certain taxation issues. A number of decisions reducing prices and easing product sales are currently being adopted. A decree on fundamental changes in the monetary and credit system has already been adopted. Many people have been raising the issue of currency regulation. First of all, at several sessions our commission has been studying a draft law proposed by a group of deputies headed by Viktor Pynzenyk. A working group of experts from the National Bank of Ukraine [NBU], the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Economy has been formed to revise the draft law. The group adopted decisions and submitted the documents for consideration at the Supreme Council session. In addition, all the Supreme Council commissions gathered at a special session devoted to currency regulation and heard reports delivered by Viktor Pynzenyk and myself. The issue was discussed, the prime minister and the NBU chairman delivered speeches. The former Supreme Council decided to delay discussion of this issue until the fall.

The Supreme Council has wasted a lot of time discussing this issue. In my opinion, the failure to adopt a decision does not imply that the deputies do not want to adopt decisions, this shows that the deputies are inclined to specify their positions and thoroughly consider their position on the issue and only later adopt important decisions. Mistakes will cost us dearly. We should take into account the fact that the Supreme Council is a political body as well. We need time to find a common language when different political trends and movements are waging battles among themselves. All interests can be balanced, but accidental decisions must not be adopted because the legislature is not an organ of immediate management, it cannot adopt immediate decisions that are always correct, it is a body which holds debates. The debates can be conducted over a rather lengthy period of time, and this is a normal legislative process. By the way, as for currency regulation, we have instructed the Supreme Council to draft a law on currency regulation and submit it for consideration by the legislature. Our commission has organized working groups for drafting this law. In addition, the Cabinet of Ministers is drafting its own version of the law on currency regulation.

The legislature's achievements, in my opinion, include the establishment of the Supreme Council's inner organs—leading bodies and commissions. Outlining commissions' tasks, discussing draft laws of prior importance, adopting decisions, shaping certain political guidelines proceeding from key political directions, including economic issues, are achievements of the legislature as well. In practice, however, the adoption of decisions could always be foiled. Currently, when the elections of the People's Deputies are complete, the Supreme Council will work more efficiently and we will be able to place higher demands on them. In general, despite all the criticism leveled against the Supreme Council, our legislature reflects society. Demands that the Supreme Council be changed imply that our people should be changed as well. We wish, as many people do, that it were more professional and competent, and consist of like-minded people only. Interests, however, differ objectively. This difference is reflected in the legislative membership. There are political parties' interests and they are represented differently because people have different interests as well. I assume that, eventually, a normal political process will be under way both in the Supreme Council and in society.

[Tuhluk] What are the immediate tasks of your commission for the upcoming session?

[Suslov] I guess the legislature would be able to resolve specific issues at its second session. I believe that these issues will be connected with economic policy. Let us presume that we have not adopted all the necessary decisions regarding the taxation policy that we had to adopt, but the Supreme Council has issued appropriate instructions to the Cabinet of Ministers. We expect that a complete package of draft laws on taxation will be submitted in early September for discussion by our commission, and I hope this package of laws will be submitted for consideration by the Supreme Council. I have already expressed by opinion on currency regulation. There are several legislative acts which should be united in one law. We have begun dealing seriously with the work of NBU. The decree on NBU reporting on its work is the first step in this direction. We have issued instructions—outlining financial terms for servicing state domestic loans, noninflationary sources for covering state domestic loans and the budget deficit, the improvement of currency control—and work in this direction will be started in September. NBU will have to deliver to us all the necessary data. In addition, we instructed NBU to report on the state of the Ukrainian banking sector in general. We will study the work of our commercial banks and submit issues for consideration by the Supreme Council session, which will adopt a number of important decisions regarding the commercial banks' performance. Realizing the importance of this issue, we have begun preparations for holding a conference in which NBU, our main commercial banks, and our commission will participate. Experts from both Ukraine, the World Bank, and the IMF will be invited to help us sort out banking issues. We lay, anyway, many claims to commercial banks' operations. Our commission is alarmed with the situation at non- banking, credit, and financial organizations, such as investment funds and companies.

This area is very poorly interpreted along legal lines. Therefore crooked financial transactions, duping our people, are almost commonplace. We began introducing appropriate changes to the acting legislation by drafting new legislative acts outlining the development of Ukraine's fund market. We have concepts and can issue instructions which will resolve these tasks. Our further work will include the indexation of people's bank accounts because almost all of our People's Deputies promised in their preelection programs—and we have analyzed them—to resolve the issues of indexation of people's bank accounts and paying compensation for securities bought by people under the Soviet regime. The source of compensation, however, is not clear. It is possible to carry out the indexation of people's accounts and gradually pay compensation, let us say, to satisfy urgent needs with an aim of the social protection of the population. For example, pensioners will receive additional payments from their indexed accounts on a monthly basis. It should be done not on a one time basis but on a monthly basis, if, however, the resolution of a number of social issues is at all possible at the expense of the sum of indexation. This will include financial relief to families with children, various kinds of social benefits, medical insurance, payments for medicines, and places in sanatoriums, summer camps, and recreation homes. A range of other issues, including state currency debts to the people, are still unresolved. I also imply people's frozen hard-currency accounts in our banks. People will not trust Ukraine's banking system and we will not attract hundreds of millions or even billions of dollars kept by people at home to our accounts until we settle these debts. We have held meetings with NBU and believe that we can settle our domestic debts in foreign currency, thereby restoring people's trust in our banking system, and attract currency to our banks. These are key issues on which we are currently working. We work during our vacations as well.

[Tuhluk] How would you describe relations between the Supreme Council and NBU? As far as I know, credits for purchasing fuel and spare parts have been issued. Will this affect the inflation rate?

[Suslov] I cannot yet provide an answer to that. The point is that this year, in my opinion, NBU is pursuing a more considered and well thought-out policy than a year before. An enormous sum of money was wasted on the needs of agriculture a year before. This prompted an increase in inflation. We could especially feel this effect last fall. First of all, NBU is at most using its capabilities to issue credits at the expense of credit resources in cash without printing money. NBU uses the credit of commercial banks, and this is a normal thing. NBU cannot and will not be able to completely avoid the issue of additional monetary emissions, however, such decisions are backed by a range of anti-inflationary moves. Let us presume that NBU began gradually decreasing its credit rate. We have been discussing this issue with NBU for quite a long period of time and its leadership has agreed to decrease its rate of interest. The decrease in interest is an anti-inflationary move because the lower percentage will be included in production costs and will not result in sharp price increases. NBU is introducing some other measures as well.

In my opinion, taxation policy—with the exception of the right to decrease VAT, excise taxes, and import duties—is being actively used. This leads to the restriction of price increases because decreased taxes are included in prices. In the future, a lot will depend on currency regulation, if, however, the transition to a free currency exchange rate is made. I have on my desk NBU calculations regarding the release of a currency exchange rate. If this transition is implemented immediately—the current market rate is 46,000 karbovanetses [K] per $1—prices would increase 2.6-fold. Retail prices in the production sector would increase by a smaller factor. If the mechanism of exchange rate regulation is used, we would be able to control price increases and avoid such jumps in prices.

[Tuhluk] What measures should be used to return foreign currency to Ukraine? Will the exchange rate be efficient in terms of our export efficiency?

[Suslov] Money is kept abroad if a political system exercises weak currency control. We had such a situation more than one year ago when we had a fluctuating exchange rate. Any person realizes that from the point of view of economic and political stability, it is safer to keep money in Swiss Banks than in Ukraine. This does not depend on the system of currency regulation but on the general situation in a state because economic and political instability and fears promote the flow of capital abroad. Rigid currency control is a counter action to this situation. By the way, currency control is becoming more rigid in Ukraine. An inspection office of currency control was established earlier this year. Law enforcement organs and tax inspection agencies are dealing directly with currency control. These moves, by the way, allowed the creation of a barrier to the flow of capital from Ukraine. Ukrainian exports, according to our estimates, are efficient with a currency rate of K28,000 per $1. An exporter receives profits, with the exception of certain exceptions. Exporters are dissatisfied with only one thing: They do not want to sell their currency at stock exchanges and want to keep the remaining 50 percent of the money, left after obligatory sales, for themselves. They hope that the export efficiency will be provided by selling only 50 percent of their currency revenues. I do not consider that a 28,500:1 exchange rate is appropriate. The current exchange rate is near to the level which, if sold at a market price, could make our exports efficient. In addition, we are adopting several decisions which will increase our export efficiency. Let us say, the aforementioned decree postulates that NBU purchases foreign currency—to be sold at stock exchanges—and efficient currency reserves at an exchange rate of a currency fund. Ten percent of currency revenues, which should be obligatorily sold, will be bought at the stock exchange rate immediately after this decree comes into force. Exporters will receive additional profits from selling obligatory amounts of their currency revenues. I guess that in the future, the official exchange rate will decrease. I can even say that we have already embarked on this path. There is only a 200 percent difference between the official rate and that offered by the stock exchange, while in September 1993 the difference was 500 percent.

[Tuhluk] Currency regulations are not the only issues ruining the economy. Certain enterprises, for example the "Blasko" enterprise, do the same.

[Suslov] I am convinced: We do not know all our losses which resulted from illegal export-import operations. We have a range of enterprises that were once profitable, but after they became joint ventures or stock holding companies they became loss-making enterprises.

[Tuhluk] All operations are being performed at bank accounts in foreign states....

[Suslov] In addition, there are many enterprises that received official permission to open bank accounts in foreign banks. Let us take "Blasko," for example. This enterprise has dozens of accounts in foreign banks. The transfer of funds through these accounts is uncontrollable. I do not understand why all this was done. It was common for us to issue official permission allowing the opening of bank accounts in foreign banks in Switzerland, Germany, or other states to large exporters. If someone could calculate everything and show our genuine balance, we would have seen that Ukraine is capable of having both a normal balance of payments and normal pace of development.

URP Holds 5th Congress, Calls for Unity

LD1209201594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1530 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—A concept for the consolidation of the Ukrainian nation was passed at the fifth URP [Ukrainian Republican Party] congress that was held on 11 September. Its basic point was: "Any nation that is not united will inevitably lose its independence."

The congress' delegates established that today the Ukrainian nation had a state but did not have any idea that could unite it. The alienation of eastern and western Ukraine continues to deepen. The situation that had arisen required unity on the part of all patriotic forces.

In the view of the concept's authors, the consolidation of the Ukrainian nation should take place in three areas: In the political, economic, and cultural spheres. Its inseparable conditions are to conduct privatization, the formation of an active, nationally conscious political elite, and the development of a new philosophical idea.

The URP congress decided to form a commission that would be occupied with the issues of the URP's union with the Democratic Party of Ukraine. A number of party documents were also adopted, in particular, a statement on the necessity of grouping together all anti-imperial forces, a statement on Russia's imperial claims, and a decision on the URP's membership of the World League in Support of Democracy and Freedom.

Changes in Foreign Ministry Examined

WS1409085294 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 6 Sep 94 p 2

[Article by Oleksiy Mustafin: "Changes Within the Foreign Ministry Do Not Augur Any Changes"]

[Text] The oriental proverb says that no matter how often you repeat the word "halva" your mouth will not become sweeter. In politics, similar rules do not work. People become used to speculations which are repeated too often, so that they gradually begin to consider them evident facts. The dismissal of [former Ukrainian Foreign Minister] Anatoliy Zlenko was awaited since the preliminary results of the presidential elections had been announced. [Ukrainian President] Leonid Kuchma insisted too much on a change in foreign policy during the election campaign. The former foreign minister was too closely connected with the former president. Not in vain did Zlenko "outlive" all the prime ministers of the young Ukrainian state, including Kuchma himself.

As a matter of fact, the farewell-party for the "long-lived man" was somewhat delayed. The first wave of rumors about the dismissal was dispersed by firm statements by [Ukrainian Prime Minister] Vitaliy Masol, who assured everybody that changes in the state's foreign policy were unlikely. Zlenko, on his part, published a lengthy article in HOLOS UKRAYINY, in which he virtually set out a new foreign-policy doctrine. It seemed that it was at least impolite to fire the diplomat immediately after the proclamation of a new doctrine. However, Kuchma probably followed another logic—one should not keep the almost "dismissed" minister in office simply because he wrote a nice article in an official publication.

Still, those who consider Zlenko's dismissal the beginning of large scale changes at the Mykhaylivska square are wrong. After all, the point is not personalities, but the system. Under [Former Ukrainian President] Kravchuk, the Foreign Ministry did not play an independent role, performing a completely supporting role in the presidential administration. In vain was Zlenko accused of a lack of initiative and sluggishness—the model of forming a foreign strategy was defined by the president himself. Kravchuk was satisfied with the Foreign Ministry which only "voiced" his ideas. There is nothing wrong in this, since such a model is not only possible, but, under certain circumstances, even efficient. Moreover, the first precondition for its efficiency is the activity of the president himself. This factor was missing under Kravchuk. Apart from a very cloudy idea of an East European security zone, the president did not formulate any strategic concept for foreign policy.

Demanding a change in the course of foreign policy, Leonid Kuchma inherited a structure able to service any new course. To change the direction of foreign policy, he did not have to replace anyone. The ability of Zlenko—a true professional diplomat—to change his orientation was demonstrated in the aforementioned article in HOLOS UKRAYINY, in which the goals of Ukrainian diplomacy were formulated "in light of new demands."

Kuchma could have entered on a different path and altered the structure of foreign policy, strengthening the role of the foreign minister and appointing a non-diplomat to this post—as was the case with the defense minister. Of course, such changes would have required a strong political choice, since a non-diplomat minister would have had to be, first of all, a politician, and a new course of foreign policy would have depended on who had become the new master at Mykhaylivska square. The president decided to avoid such a tough choice. The structure remains unchanged, and the Foreign Ministry remains a technical body "at the side of the president."

Finally, by appointing a professional diplomat as the foreign minister, the president could have elected one of the young specialists at the ministry—the current deputies. This could have indicated a wish to really remodel Ukraine's foreign policy. By the way, [Russian President] Yeltsin found [Russian Foreign Minister] Andrey Kozyrev in this way, and perhaps he does not regret this. In our case, the first candidate for this office would have been Borys Tarasyuk. However, relations between Tarasyuk and Kuchma were probably tense since the latter had been prime minister, and the possibilities of approving this candidacy at the parliament session were limited. Kuchma thus preferred the "old and verified cadres."

The appointment of Hennadiy Udovenko as the foreign minister was expected, since to a certain degree he had been "persecuted" by the former president, who had moved him from New York to Warsaw in a few steps. Yet, this fact does not guarantee the new minister's loyalty to the new president's course. One must also remember that [Rukh Chairman] Vyacheslav Chornovil once deemed Udovenko the best candidate for the "shadow" foreign minister in Rukh's cabinet.

Udovenko, undoubtedly, is an experienced specialist, and it is quite possible that he will be a better minister than Zlenko. The story of his appointment confirms, however, that the president does not consider changes in foreign policy a priority issue. Kuchma's first motive for action is his desire to get rid of "Kravchuk's people," even if they do not pose a threat to him and are ready to cooperate "on his conditions." This motive is strong enough so that it sometimes forces the president to act against his own interests. Nevertheless, there is hope that when "Kravchuk's people" are finally gone, real matters will have their turn. Yet, until there is a turn toward real matters, one should not wait for any changes in our foreign policy.

Interior Ministry Vows To Catch 'Mafiosi'

AU1309184394 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 9 Sep 94 p 1

["Statement by the Ministry of Internal Affairs: The Mafiosi Are Becoming Increasingly Impudent"]

[Text] On 5 September 1994, a terrorist act was directed against Militia Major V.V. Baleha, head of the Department for Combating International Crime at Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry Main Administration for Combating Organized Crime in Transcarpathian Oblast.

That despicable act is indication that the organized criminal world has brazenly challenged the state and the people. It is confirmation of the correctness of actions by the law-enforcement agencies, which, in carrying out the Ukrainian presidential edict, have decisively got down to cleaning up our society. It also testifies that we have started putting pressure on the lords of organized crime—the mafia.

Hence the attempts to intimidate officers of the law-enforcement agencies and to sow panic and terror among the population.

We are responding to that cynical challenge by appropriate and borderline [hranychni] methods to suppress and nip in the bud any terrorist attempts. For this, we have sufficient resources, strength, and means. They will be employed to full measure. The law and the people's support are on our side.

We warn all those whom it may concern against contemplating such actions. For us, it is a matter of honor to find the contractors and perpetrators of this terrorist act. They will be found.

Mafia Said Behind Crimean Economic 'Chaos'

MM1309141694 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 2

[Article by Vladimir Seleznev, assistant minister of finance of the Republic of Crimea: "Will Crimea Become a Black Sea Tiger? What and Who Is Behind the Present Fierce Political Squabbles? The Present Article Partially Answers This Question"]

[Text] Not so long ago the ROSSIYSKIY EKONOMICHESKIY ZHURNAL published an optimistic article by I.K. Alekseyev and M.S. Bernshtam entitled "Chance of a Crimean Miracle." (Igor Konstantinovich Alekseyev, executive secretary for industry and enterprise under the Russian Government; Mikhail Semenovich Bernshtam, senior scientific worker of the Hoover Institute, California, an expert at the Working Center for Reforms under the Russian Federation Government.)

They set the following tasks for Crimea: attract foreign banks, mortgage the land to them, and thereby resolve all the social problems—housing, energy, water. Moreover, the foreign banks will pour credits into Crimean industry, transport, agriculture, and the social sphere; Crimea is unique, which will enable it, in effect renouncing the karbovanets and the ruble, to go over to the dollar and become the banking center of the CIS and all Eastern Europe, to become a Black Sea tiger. In short, that is how these authors see Crimea's future.

Six months have passed. There have been virtually no foreign investments. Why not? There are many reasons.

Little Crimea suffered particularly as a result of the elimination of the Union and the severing of economic and political ties; it acted like a lens, focusing within itself both Russian and Ukrainian problems: conversion, agriculture, housing, ecology, the nationalities issue. And see how things have turned out. The president is pro-Russian, parliament is pro-Russian, the ministers are generally straight from Moscow. In global terms they are united—Long live prosperous Crimea! But on all more or less concrete questions the president, the government, and parliament are reminiscent of the swan, the crab, and the pike [who all pulled in different directions]. But again, that is all on the surface. For some reason, many Crimeans think that the real power belongs neither to the president nor to the government, but to the mafia. And that is plain to see: The Crimean "gentlemen of fortune" are now being reinforced by "members of the same club" from Solntsevo, St. Petersburg, and Dnepropetrovsk. Close at hand there is the well and truly famished, well and truly armed Caucasus, which would also be only too pleased to get a little closer to Yalta. So Crimea could easily turn into a "big hideout" with crazy money. There is one problem—the "large-scale crooks" know all about trade overheads and construction contracts, they can even blow things up or set fire to them, but they are ignorant and lazy when it comes to real business, and what is more, they lack patriotism. They cannot bring about prosperity for the whole of Crimean society, that task requires a different kind of strength—political, economic, and, most importantly, moral. For instance, Sicily, despite the dominance of the world's most powerful mafia, is the poorest region of Italy.

The Crimean mafia is already, according to some estimates, concealing taxes worth several times the Crimean budget, forcing almost the entire population of Crimea into poverty. The more chaotic things are, the better—so the mafia whips up passions and initiates costly political acts (mainly for parliamentary execution). There is just one aim—to wreck the budget, finally ruin the plants and sovkhozes, buy up property for next to nothing, resell it, and take possession of it somewhere in Cyprus or Switzerland.

Meanwhile, as usual, the people of the Crimea are promised a bright future and assured that the West will help us. It is a circus—the whole of Russia was able to attract only just over $200 million in the first six months of 1994, yet here one Ostap Bender after another [reference to swindler in novel "The Twelve Chairs"] is promising the president to get hold of $10 billion or so in the next quarter, all you have to do is mortgage Crimea. Chairs now, money later, so to speak. But any real attempts at investment are firmly blocked. Oh, those false counselors, whom Dante placed in the eighth circle of hell. At the moment it is not in hell, but in the real Crimea that well-wishers have launched a campaign of "enlightenment"—saying that the Crimean palaces and sanatoriums are worth nothing, we should let them go for their residual value, if anyone will buy them. **But it was Union departments that built them, and if they are to be sold, it should not be to just anyone; Russia's interest should be taken into account.**

It goes without saying that those skilled, uncowed Crimeans who know their own worth are no use to the mafia, and they are already beginning to be squeezed out—to Turkey, to Russia, for wages and "for good." It is a serious situation. And if Crimea is not to plunge from the communist quagmire straight into the mafia abyss of official power, it is necessary at least to attempt to take power in our own hands, and that means taking ourselves in hand, and if necessary cleaning ourselves up.

In this respect very great hopes were pinned on the Moscow ministers. As President Meshkov himself expressed it, "these people have not grown barnacles yet." The main thing is that it is time to focus on the simple thought that it is better to all start working together to increase the size of the pie, than to grab bits of what there already is. Especially since, whether you grab at it or not, all you will get is miserable crumbs. **Despite all the external and internal political clashes, the government has managed to do some things, for instance, a sensible tax system, probably the most sensible on CIS territory. It is largely thanks to this that Russian enterprises and banks from many regions of Russia, the motor vehicle giants from Nizhniy Novgorod and Tolyatti, and also the "superbanks"—Promstroybank, Menatep, and others—have quietly stepped up their activity on Crimean (once Russian) soil.**

But there is still work to be done here.... In terms of its potential, Crimea could be to the CIS roughly what California is to the United States. But in order to live the way the Californians live, the Crimeans must increase their gross product exactly 100-fold. This task will take years, but it can be done, given a united political will based on sober self-assessment by all the political forces active in the peninsula.

Incidentally, the basic problems with water and electricity that could not be resolved under either Soviet or anti-Soviet power could well be resolved, according to experts at the Russian Ministry of Fuel and Energy, without dramatic costs, wholly by means of sensible mobilization of Crimea's internal resources. But this is a difficult and unprofitable task. **And incidentally, the water situation has now been exacerbated artificially, politically.**

If a united state will emerges in Crimea, it will be possible to attract foreign investments with greater certainty. **Then it will be possible to struggle to ensure that ships carrying goods come to Crimea bypassing Istanbul, the Emirates, or Constantsa, and that shuttles disperse from Crimea across the CIS and Eastern Europe. And the returning transport will not be empty: Given the new world disorder, the demand in the Third World for many of our country's products is colossal—refrigerators, for instance. Increase the weight of maritime leverage and overturn the existing economic order—that is the desired starting point. Of course, there are a great many reefs beneath the keel of the Crimean ship, but in order to sail successfully, what you need is not a shipboard mutiny, but a tough, reasonable captain and a disciplined, skilled crew.**

After all, even the transition to the longed-for dollar circulation will solve nothing on its own. Virtually the whole of Africa uses the dollar for this and that. It is claimed that Russia has already accumulated 20 percent of all the cash dollars in the world, and where is the economic revival? The problem is that this cash brings with it from the West the generally sharp but inadequate "business small-fry" who have achieved nothing substantial back home, so what would they do in Russia? Or else, in Crimea, all they can do is speculate: They have neither the resources nor the brains for investment. These parasitic "buyers and sellers" produce nothing and give others nothing.

As for the recommended mass housing construction against the mortgaging of the land, such construction projects are never paid for—that is to say, building should be done not against a mortgage, but against the sale of the land. A crucial decision that should not be made without general consensus. Incidentally, foreign banks in prosperous Cyprus do not have the right to give credit to Cypriot companies, including construction companies.

Of course the prospect of becoming a Black Sea tiger is alluring, but the leading U.S. company AT&T is forming an opto-electronic commercial network for the Mediterranean-Black Sea area with its main center in Italy and regional centers in Istanbul, Novorossiysk, and Odessa. Not Crimea.

Does the West need a Black Sea tiger? The Brzezinskis want to fragment Russia and Ukraine even further, yet here is Crimea threatening to become the locomotive of integration. The high nobility had the same thought from the days of the False Dmitriy [pretender to throne] onwards. But do Russia and Ukraine want a center like this? The CIS will soon have spun out three years with nothing but summits like stars in the sky, and not a single interbank center for mutual transactions. If there is to be a banking Supercenter, that means that the capital of the CIS should be in Crimea too. Is Kiev prepared to take orders from Simferopol? Bernshtam's argument that "a rich and independent Crimea is more to Ukraine's advantage than a poor and dependent one" is indisputably logical, but on our blue planet by no means everyone lives by logic.

Naturally, the West, if it had an interest in "Crimean tiger-meat," could give the appropriate orders. Look at the postures the Kremlin is forced to adopt before Estonia; so, too, Kiev would lay itself down line a red carpet before banking capital altruistically marching to the south coast of Crimea.

And if this financial crusade should ever happen, a very great responsibility will fall on the Crimean government. Close at hand is the oversaturated European market. The foreign banks' main commitments are to that market. And therefore it is far simpler to palm off unwanted goods on Crimea, stifling the Crimean economy, than to invest in developing new production facilities and stir things up in Europe.

Heaven knows whether anyone has a realistic scenario for the events being played out in Crimea. Although there is room for them to develop.

There are eight top-class airfields alone, Europe's biggest air base. Then there is the unique climate, an educated, industrious people, and a commonwealth-wide shortage of **intelligent** banking services. However, if these visions of paradise are to become a stern and prosperous reality, one little thing is needed—nationwide accord, not only in Crimea, but in the Moscow-Kiev environs too.

In the West there are many rich, very rich, people, there are 349 billionnaires, but we must realize that until such time as our authorities can provide answers to the main questions that concern Russian people—satisfactory answers guaranteeing stability and tranquillity—until then, it is no use expecting the West to take us seriously. **How can you invest somewhere where the people and the authorities do not understand one another?**

There are no such things as causeless miracles, and the American empire flourishes only because it possesses a fine system of national and religious values reflecting the traditions and feelings of the American people. Crimeans—and not only Crimeans—are being distracted by certain people from full-blooded, constructive work—people do not understand why Russia, Great 1,000-Year-Old Russia, has become a foreign country for them. Life in Crimea means either emigre status, or independence.

Belarus

Failure To Agree on Border with Lithuania

LD1309214594 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] According to available information, Lithuanian and Belarusian diplomats failed to agree on the establishment of the border between the two states in Minsk today.

According to sources at the Belarusian Foreign Ministry, the method proposed by Lithuania of solving the issue of the status of the Adutiskis railroad station was unacceptable to the Belarusians, and the Lithuanian representatives did not agree to hand over the sanatorium in Druskininkai, because this is contrary to Lithuanian law.

Although the coordination of the text of the Lithuanian-Belarusian political treaty was almost completed, the sides will finally initial this document only after an agreement on the delimitation of the border is reached.

The Lithuanian and Belarusian delegations signed a protocol on consultations between the foreign ministries of both countries and coordinated a draft of the Lithuanian-Belarusian treaty of goodneighborliness and cooperation.

It is expected that Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka will come to Vilnius between 16 and 19 September to sign a political treaty with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas.

German Envoy on Economic Cooperation, Aid

WS1309143794 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1230 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The German Government is willing to support the new Belarusian Government in carrying out socially oriented market reforms in Belarus, Walter Kittel, plenipotentiary of the FRG Federal Government for advice aid to the countries of East Europe, declared at a press conference held on September 13. According to W. Kittel, he has come to Belarus to sum up the implementation of the Belarusian-German program for consultative cooperation in 1994 and to assess the possibility of implementing such a program in 1995.

In the course of the visit W. Kinkel met with Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir, Deputy Prime Ministers Mikhail Myasnikovich and Syarhey Linh, as well as the ministers of state property control and privatization, education and foreign economic relations; had meetings with Uladzimir Hancharyk, chairman of the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus, Leanid Kozik, chairman of the Supreme Soviet's permanent committee for economic reform, as well as representatives of business circles. Commenting on the results of the meetings W. Kittel stressed that he had made sure of the Belarusian Government's unwavering purpose to adhere to the policy of reforms. He pointed out that the Belarusian leaders had "profound confidence" based on the aid Germany had provided, and that they cherished the hope that Germany would continue to help Belarus in the future.

Mr. Kittel also informed journalists of priorities in cooperation between Belarus and Germany in 1995. Among the priorities there will be the directions that demonstrated their value in practice—training and improvement of the professional skill of managers at leading bodies, consultations at the government level in various fields. Special assistance will be rendered to the development of enterprises of small and mid-size business, as well as the process of privatization in Belarus.

According to Mr. Kittel, becoming acquainted with the program of urgent measures for getting Belarus out of the crisis, provided representatives of the German Government with the opportunity to get a better knowledge of the situation in the country, allowing certain conformity regarding possible aid.

W. Kittel declared that the visit resulted in strengthening Belarusian-German cooperation and in imparting a long-term character to it.

Energy Debt To Russia Totals 1 Trillion Rubles

WS1309143594 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] BELINFORM has reported that Belarus' debt for energy resources amounts to 1 trillion Russian rubles. This sum fluctuates but, unfortunately, has recently begun to increase. Payment is only being made on 70 percent of the Russian supplies, while 30 percent remain unaccounted for. According to remarks by National Bank Chairman Stanislaw Bahdankevich, Belarus' external debt has become a commercial problem, that is, payments for supplies of energy resources are not being made.

Understanding the situation in the Republic of Belarus, the Russian side had proposed other scenarios—to repay the debt with goods and services as well as stocks, that is, with property. This question, however, has not been finally resolved. The Belarusian Government, in its turn, intends to halt the process of increasing debts and to achieve a zero option—that is to say, to implement its program for overcoming the economic crisis.

Selling Shares Proposed To Finance Debt

LD1309181794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1600 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By unidentified BELINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Minsk September 13 TASS—On the eve of coming of cold autumn weather a threat of terminating Russian gas supplies to Belarussia [Belarus] has become real, Stanislaw Bahdankevich, head of the board of the National Bank of the republic believes.

Belarussia will not be able to fully pay off in the near future its debt for Russian gas even at the expense of hard currency credits received from international financial organizations, the chief banker told BELINFORM today.

According to Stanislaw Bahdankevich, it is necessary now to look for other civilized forms of settlements with Russia. He proposed as one of them to start selling to Russia in reasonable limits shares of some Belarusian enterprises working on Russia's raw materials.

This will make it possible not only to decrease the debt but also guarantee stable work for many thousands of workers at enterprises of the republic which are at a standstill because of the shortage of raw materials, the banker pointed out.

Turmoil in Defense Establishment Continues

MK1409100094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 4

[Report by Valentin Zhdanko from Minsk in the "Belorussia" column: "The Former Defense Minister Has Sued the President. A Medical Commission Has Deemed Colonel-General Anatol Kastenka 'Unfit for Military Service'"]

[Text] Colonel General Anatoliy Kastenka, who was recalled from the reserves and appointed the republic's defense minister, according to a military-medical commission is "unfit for military service in peacetime and is fit for service in war time on a limited basis." This sensational document was published on 13 September by the Minsk newspaper SVABODA. A certificate of illness listing 13 disorders was issued to Gen. Kastenka, who had not even had the time to swear an oath of allegiance to Belorussia [Belarus].

The general, "unfit for military service," in his time was in command of the Belorussian Military District. After the republic became independent he aspired to the top post in the military department. Disagreements with the then Belorussian leadership, however, prevented him from getting the high position. The general became a minister only when Alyaksandr Lukashenka came to power.

Meanwhile drastic cadre reshuffles are under way in the Belorussian Army. All deputy defense ministers and all chiefs of ministry directorates have been dismissed. Former Defense Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy in an interview with SEGODNYA described the situation as "a settling of personal scores" and "an extravagant waste of public funds." Kozlovskiy, who has a long-standing mutual dislike for Lukashenka, was recently, following a presidential edict, demoted to the rank of lieutenant general.

The former defense minister does not recognize the presidential edict, refuses to remove the stars from his shoulder boards, and has taken legal action against the president for "insulting his honor and dignity." Furthermore, Kozlovskiy said, he is going to ask the Supreme Soviet leadership to draw the court's attention to some of the president's edicts. People in Minsk believe that when he returns from vacation in Sochi at the "Belorussia" sanitarium, Myacheslaw Hryb will not leave the insulted ex-minister in the lurch. The only question is how this will reflect on the relationship between the president and parliament.

Deputy Defense Minister on Army Housing Problems

WS1309121394 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1800 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Interview with Deputy Defense Minister Uladzimir Ramanavich Yakhnitski by Alyaksandr Kiyranen; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Kiyranen] We have recently witnessed a real historical event when the last Russian soldier left the territory of Germany. A long and dangerous military and political opposition on our continent has ended at last. However, this is not the subject of our interview today with Belarusian Deputy Defense Minister Uladzimir Ramanavich Yakhnitski. On the eve, Mayak radio station reported that a part of the Russian troops is allegedly going to settle in military settlements built on Belarusian territory by foreign firms.

[Yakhnitski, in Russian] I must say that, mildly speaking, this does not fully correspond with reality.

[Kiyranen] Soon it will be winter. What is the general situation with housing for our officers and warrant officers?

[Yakhnitski] The situation is rather difficult here, but it is not hopeless. Our worst current problem is with financing. Unfortunately, over the last period, the cost of construction work increased by 6.5 times. As of today, indexation of the state budget has not been carried out. We asked for an additional 26 billion rubles [R] for the remainder of the year—this sum is given in prices after the currency reevaluation. There are no official figures for the time being, but we have learned beforehand that we will be given only R9.4 billion. Of course, we are not sitting idle. Under orders from the defense minister, we have worked out a one-and-a-half-year program with the purpose of sharply reducing the number of servicemen without housing. In accordance with this program, by the end of 1995, we should attain the estimated figure 6,050 [apartments].

[Kiyranen] And you will achieve this?

[Yakhnitski] I think that we will achieve this if, in addition to our own effort, there is appropriate support from the state.

Opposition Politician is New Labor Minister

WS1409081894 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 0700 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] The Belarusian president signed an edict on 13 September appointing Alyaksandr Sasnow as minister of labor.

As is known, before his nomination, A. Sasnow headed the Supreme Soviet Commission for Labor, Prices, Employment, and Social Protection of the Population. It is interesting that A. Sasnow was also minister of labor in the shadow cabinet of the Belarusian Popular Front parliamentary opposition.

Moldova

Minister Holds Press Conference on Romania Visit

LD1409083894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0751 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Morozov]

[Text] Bucharest September 14 TASS—"We appreciate Romania's understanding and its support to the Moldavian [Moldovan] republic's urge for independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity," Moldavian Foreign Minister Mikhail Popov told a press conference here on Tuesday, which was devoted to the results of his official visit to Romania.

The Moldavian minister was received by President Ion Iliescu and Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu. He also met Oliviu Gherman and Adrian Nastase, the speakers of the two houses of the Romanian parliament. Popov also had two rounds of talks with Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Viorel Melescanu.

The political dialogue can and must be continued—this conclusion was voiced at a joint press conference, held by the two foreign ministers here. However, journalists could not help noticing a certain difference in the stands of the two diplomats: Whereas Romania insists on "special" relations between the two countries, Moldavia regards Romania only as a partner in the relations with which it prefers to put the accent on economy.

Touching on the future political treaty between the two countries, Melescanu said that it would be a special treaty, reflecting "privileged" relations between the two countries. Popov, on the other hand, said that it was important for Moldavia to conclude such treaties with all its neighbours, including Romania. Kishinev [Chisinau] plans to strengthen the common economic space with Romania and to develop at the same time effective economic cooperation with all the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). "So far, Romania holds second place after Russia in economic relations with Moldavia," Popov stated.

Touching on the situation in the Dniester area, the Moldavian minister pointed out that the special status granted to that territory did not mean that Kishinev was giving it up or was ready to federalize Moldavia. It is merely wants to decentralise the government, to grant more economic, but not political rights to the local authorities with a view to safeguarding Moldavia's territorial integrity and single statehood. "It is obvious," Popov stressed, "that only a political dialogue will be effective in the effort to overcome the conflict produced bloodshed in 1992."

Official Insists on Withdrawal of 14th Army

LD1309200294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1829 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau September 13 TASS—Moldova has declared for admitting Russia to the Council of Europe provided that Moscow will ensure that the 14th Army withdraw unconditionally from the Dniester region.

This statement was made by Dmitriy Dyakov, chairman of the Moldovan Parliamentary Commission for Foreign Affairs, who returned from Germany where he participated in a session of the council's political commission.

"We assume that Russia's joining the family of European countries will encourage democratization processes in this country," he said.

"At the same time, we drew attention of participants in the high-ranking forum to that fact that there are pro-imperial circles in Russia which support the separatist regime in Tiraspol and declare against the Russo-Moldovan agreements on withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army from Moldova," he added.

Delegates from many countries backed Moldova's position in respect of the Russian troops, he said.

"Moldova may become a full member state of the Council of Europe as early as in the middle of the next year," he said.

"An expert delegation is to arrive in Chisinau next October to check on complying with certain conditions required for entering the Council of Europe," he said.

According to Dyakov, all issues related to Moldova's outer frontiers and its possible merger with other countries were dismissed at the session in Weimar.

"We have proved that we are firmly pursuing a course of creating an independent country, and representatives of other states, including Russia and Romania, declared in support of our stand," he emphasized.

Suspension of Parties Seen as Politically Based

MM1309162194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Arkadiy Pasechnik: "Red Light for the People's Front"]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau]—The Moldavian [Moldovan] Prosecutor's Office has instructed the republic Ministry of Justice to adopt measures to suspend the activity of the People's Christian-Democratic Front for six months, until the charter, program documents, and activity of the People's Christian Democratic Front are brought into line with existing legislation. At the moment, according to the Prosecutor's Office, they are not in line with it at all, and, what is more, the front is fighting against Moldavia's statehood and campaigning for unification with Romania.

Apart from the People's Christian Democratic Front, the Congress of the Intelligentsia, the National Christian Party, and the "Aliantsa Verde" [name as transliterated] environmental party, which follow in the political wake of the front, and also the largest organization of the republic's Russian-speaking population—the "Unitatya-Equality" movement, have found themselves on the "blacklist." Analyzing this list, certain observers are expressing the thought that its formation was most likely dictated not by juridical norms but by reasons from the sphere of political tactics.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Announces Army Pay Hike

MM1309131994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Anatoliy Ladin: "Exercises End...With Pay Raise"]

[Text] Alma-Ata [Almaty]—Comprehensive command-staff exercises have ended at the Kazakhstan Defense Ministry's central test range. Their progress was observed by Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of Kazakhstan and supreme commander in chief of the republic's Armed Forces. The exercises ended successfully and, according to Defense Minister Army General Sagadat Nurmagambetov, achieved their objective. Nursultan Nazarbayev, who addressed the participants in the exercise, also voiced his satisfaction with the personnel's actions. In conclusion Nazarbayev disclosed that he has signed an edict raising servicemen's pay.

Bread Price Rises Cause Public Disorder

LD1309114194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0627 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Akimov]

[Text] Almaty, 13 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—There is mass public disorder in Kazakhstan over rumors about a sharp increase in the price of bread.

A panic was caused by a report on republican television about bread price rises which was ahead of reality. Over the last few days long lines have started to form outside stores. There has also been mass disorder. Today's edition of the newspaper SOVETY KAZAKHSTANA reports that in Chimkent [Chymkent], a city of half a million people, for example, citizens driven to despair by standing in line in vain for hours started to break the windows and doors of stores. One bakery was looted.

In principle, it is a foregone conclusion that the price of bread will be going up again in Kazakhstan. At the moment it is being sold at 3-5 times less than cost. The state is also no longer able to subsidize the bakery industry. The government does not even have enough money to purchase the amount of grain from this year's harvest envisioned in the state order.

Kyrgyzstan

Parliament Continues Work Despite Lack of Quorum

Moscow INTERFAX in English 1553 GMT 13 Sep 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovsky, Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The parliament in Bishkek failed to hold a special session on Monday because of a lack of quorum. Only 80 of the 323 deputies turn up.

Parliament Speaker Medtetkan Sherimkulov in a speech to the rump house spoke of the need to ask President Askar Akayev as guarantor of the country's constitution to decide on the fate of the legislature and maintain internal stability. He said the house majority was always supportive of reformist policies pursued by the president and Kyrgyz government.

The Speaker blamed the parliamentary crisis on inconsistent actions by the core of the house refusing to attend the last session. He said the question was one of a group of deputies who combined the duties of legislators and regional administrators. Sherimkulov made it clear that the obstructionist stand taken by some of the deputies was in response to political pressure and gamblings, and disregard for the rule of law.

He expressed surprise that the government should have resigned ahead of the formal dissolution of parliament.

As an example, the Speaker pointed to the Russian cabinet which had assumed full responsibility following the siege of the White House in Moscow last October.

A number of deputies had accused the president and government of launching a campaign aimed at derailing the session. Proposals were made for choosing a central election commission to arrange a general election which the deputies think must be held next March instead of this December as President Akayev appears to suggest.

IF Note: The special session was expected to announce an early dissolution of parliament. The Supreme Soviet virtually signed its own death warrant following the house majority's refusal early this month to attend a session planned for September 27. The move forced the government to resign on September 5 because of the Kyrgyz law saying the cabinet ceases to exist upon the expiry of the parliament appointing it. President Akayev told the incumbent cabinet led by Apas Jumagulaov to stay put until a new government was formed.

Constitutional Crisis Worsens

MM1309150194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Yuriy Razgulyayev: "Corruption Commission Will Not Have Its Say"]

[Text] Bishkek—As has already been reported, the constitutional crisis in Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan] has seriously worsened in recent days. Following statements made by over 160 Zhogorku Kenesha (?supreme council) deputies to the effect that they did not want to participate in the scheduled session, and following the resignation of the government, there remain very few paths to a normal, peaceful settlement of the conflict. Particularly since the parliament presidium has been resolutely insisting that the session be convened.

However, even that has seemingly been overturned. On 6 September the press carried a decree whereby the Zhogorku Kenesha Presidium agreed, not openly, but in essence, with the presidential edict on early elections, that is, the actual dissolution of parliament. However, in order to observe at least a semblance of constitutionality, the decree proposed to convene an extraordinary session with only two issues on the agenda—on the formation of a central electoral commission and on early elections.

But even that essentially capitulatory decision did not suit the people who are organizing the crisis. In response there straightway appeared a statement from the president's press service which said that [President of Kyrgyzstan] A. Akayev does not even agree to a mini-session, and that he would not take part in it.

What are the reasons? They are primarily afraid of the corruption commission. What if the people's representatives suddenly decide to hear its report all the same? But even that is not all. In the last few days certain newspapers have recently been publishing letters and telegrams from deputies who are retracting their signatures to the notorious statement on "nonparticipation" or are maintaining that they have not signed anything at all. And indeed for some reason the actual signatures are not to be found in the Zhogorku Kenesha itself. They are sent straight to the newspapers from the president's apparatus.

Japanese Group Considering Railway Project

LD1109160694 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 1300 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] The government press service reports that Kyrgyz Vice President Ibrahimov received a group of experts from the Japanese Transport Association on 8 September. The purpose of the visit was to study a draft project for building [words indistinct] railways in the country. According to the report, the Japanese government intends to finance the project. On 9 September the guests were due to travel from Balykshy to Kokzhany.

Statistical Report Shows Migration Decreasing

LD1409125094 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Summary] The State Statistical Committee reports that migration is decreasing. The total number of migrants in the first six months of 1994 was 104,800, that is, 25,000 less than the second half of last year. Migration to the CIS countries has decreased but the flow of migrants to foreign countries has increased. Among those who have left the republic, 30 percent are workers and 21 percent are civil servants.

Tajikistan

Tension Growing on Pamir Stretch of Border

LD1409100294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0851 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe September 14 TASS—The situation remains extremely tense along the Pamir stretch of the Tajik-Afghan border, where armed provocations against Russian border guards and attempts of armed Tajik mujahidin to break into Tajikistan from Afghan territory by force are continuing unabated.

ITAR-TASS was told today at the press centre of the Russian border guard troops in Tajikistan that some unidentified men opened fire on Tuesday from the Pamir village of Pasthuv at the house where the commander of the 10th post of the Horog border guard detachment is living. A border patrol came under fire, from Afghan territory in the area of the first post of the Horog border guard detachment in the morning of September 14. One Russian soldier was wounded. Russian border guards prevented on the night of September 14 an attempt of Tajik mojaheeds to cross the border from Afghanistan near the third and fourth posts of the Horog border guard detachment. There were no casualties among Russian border guards.

'Fierce Battles' with Opposition Mujahidin

LD1309202894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1204 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspsondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 13 Sep—Military units of Tajikistan, acting jointly with units of the Ministry of Security and Ministry of Internal Affairs of the republic, have been mounting an extensive operation all day to flush formations of the irreconcileable opposition out of Tavildarinskiy rayon. Fierce battles are raging. According to various reports, the number of combatants is as high as 1,500. This was learned by the ITAR-TASS correspondent from well-informed sources in Tajikistan's Ministry of Defense.

A number of population centers of the rayon have been abandoned by the local population. Some 800 inhabitants have moved to neighboring Gornyy Badakhshan, where it is comparatively quiet.

In Tavildarinskiy rayon government forces are coming under large-caliber machinegun and grenade-launcher fire from detachments of the opposition. The mujahidin, who are surrounded, are desperately trying to break through into the CIS-Pamir zone and from there to the frontier region of Gornyy Badakhshan, in order to cross over into Afghan territory. The Tajik air force is mounting bombing strikes on the positions of the mujahidin.

As Semen Zingerman, aide to the minister of defense of Tajikistan, has stated, "the Tavildarinskiy zone will be taken under full control in the next few days," after which "all forces will be thrown into crushing the remaining resistance."

'Some Optimism' After Talks in Tehran

LD1309212094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2004 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran September 13 TASS—The Democratic Party of Tajikistan (DPT) lead by Yusuf Shodmon accepts the conduction of election in the republic, and will take part in them, ITAR-TASS was told by the DPT leadership. "The party will contribute to making Tajikistan a democratic secular state. It stands for resolving the Tajik conflict only with political means, supports the Tajik dialogue and intends to take an active part in it as an independent political force. The DPT highly appreciates Russia's mediator efforts, and relates Tajikistan's future to democratic development in both countries," the party leaders said.

Diplomatic sources in Tehran say a rift is becoming apparent within the Tajik opposition, whose leaders are attending the Tehran talks. The opposition party Rostokhiz will probably join the DPT in its willngness to participate in the Tajik elections.

A leader of the Islamist movement, Abdullo Nouri, early in Tuesday met in Tehran with Tajikistan's first deputy parliament chairman, Abdulmajid Dostiyev, who arrived here.

U.N. secretary general's special envoy for Tajikistan Ramiro Piriz-Ballon said the talks passed in a "good atmosphere," giving a ground for some optimism about their results.

A Russian delegation to the Tehran conference is holding intense consultations with the Tajik factions and with the Iranian Foreign Ministry. In particular, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev is due to meet today with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The frame of further negotiation is uncertain now. The Tajik dialogue will probably continue with mediation of Piriz-Ballon and observers from Iran, Russia and other countries.

Government Ready To Discuss Cease-fire

LD1309161294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 13 Sep 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Combat actions continue between government forces and detachments of the armed opposition in the mountainous Tavildara Rayon. Both sides are sustaining losses. Last Sunday a military helicopter of the Tajikistan Ministry of Defense was hit by shots from a machine-gun. Though damaged, it managed to reach the Dushanbe aerodrome.

The local population, exhausted by the incessant firing are afraid for their lives, and are leaving their kishlaks. The CIS countries collective peace-keeping forces in Tajikistan take no part in the conflict, regarding it as the country's internal affair.

Meanwhile, a government delegation of the republic headed by Abdumadzhid Dostiyev, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council, has flown to Tehran to participate in an inter-Tajik meeting. The delegation's portfolio contains a cease-fire agreement ready to be signed.

[Begin Dostiyev recording] Everyone has the same right to live and work in their motherland. In the course of political measures, in the referendum on the adoption of the basic law, the Constitution, and in the election of the head of state, all Tajiks, or all citizens of Tajikistan must be present and participate in these measures. [end recording]

Defense Ministry Denies Tavildara Capture

LD1009122194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1104 GMT 10 Sep 94

[By TIA KHOVAR correspondent Zayniddin Nasriddinov for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe, 10 Sep—The press center of Tajikistan's Defense Ministry today flatly denied reports on the capture of Tavildara, a rayon center in the Pamir region, by militants of the Tajik opposition.

The statement says that, even though the enemy succeeded in advancing "a few kilometers in the direction of Tavildara," national troops have occupied key positions and have "completely cut off possible approach roads to Tavildara and nearby inhabited localities." Operations are under way to destroy small armed groups of militants. The air force has carried out air strikes against the mujahidin who fought their way to Tavildara by mountain paths. The enemy has lost a considerable number of dead and wounded. Precise losses are unknown. Several of the enemy's weapon emplacements were suppressed by artillery and mortar fire.

Tajikistan's Defense Ministry stated that "all rumors about the successes achieved by the militants and about their capture of Tavildara are without real foundation, just as the statement on the capture of military equipment and a large number of dead and injured Defense Ministry servicemen. Combat operations are now under way but the situation in Tavildara rayon is fully controlled by government troops."

Foreign Ministry Denies Anti-Democrat Actions

LD1309123094 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 0400 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The 30 August 1994 issue of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA published an article by Oleg Panfilov under the headline "Election campaign in the republic is becoming more complicated".

The article alleges that a group of employees of the Tajikistan Ministry of Security were sent to Moscow to conduct an operation against the Coordinating Center of the Democratic Forces of Tajikistan in the CIS countries.

Zafar Saidov, the head of the republican Ministry of Foreign Affairs' information department, officially denied at a briefing yesterday for local and foreign journalists the latest fabrication which came from the unbridled imagination of the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent and which favors those people who are not interested in the restoration of peace and tranquillity in Tajikistan.

The Tajik Foreign Ministry representative pointed out that such operations are absolutely impossible. The relations between the republic's Ministry of Security and the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service are strictly regulated by the agreement on cooperation and interaction signed in 1993 by the two departments.

Turkmenistan

Payment of $1.5 Billion Gas Debt Sought

MM1309161394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Sep 94 First Edition p 4

[Report by Grigoriy Smolnikov: "Ashkhabad in Role of Lender"]

[Text] The amount owed to Turkmenia [Turkmenistan] by the CIS countries for gas and electricity has reached $1.5 billion. At a recent State Council session President Saparmurad Niyazov stated: "Our indulgent attitude toward debtors is essentially turning into an interest-free loan to Ukraine, Georgia, and Azerbaijan." The Turkmen Government is hoping that these countries will in the near future settle their debts in the form of goods, and then start paying hard currency in three-four months' time.

So far only Armenia is paying its bills on time.

Leonid Kuchma has already gotten involved in solving the gas problem. To begin with he has proposed to Ashkhabad [Ashgabat] an exchange of groups of experts, who have already begun work. Kiev is also in a hurry because winter is not far off.

The dialogue with Tbilisi and Baku, which owe Turkmenia $250 million each, will probably resume soon.

Ashgabat, Tehran Agree on Afghan Refugee Transfer

LD1109161694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Afghan refugees of Turkmen nationality have been given permission from Ashgabat to move from Iran to Turkmenistan. Iran says that over 700 people will cross the border over the next few days. The refugees, who have been living in northwest Afghanistan, fled the civil war in Afghanistan to Iran. They are refusing to return home because of ongoing instability in Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan

Ukrainian Government Ends Cooperation Talks

LD0809121794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1137 GMT 8 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vilor Niyazmatov]

[Text] Tashkent September 8 TASS—Uzbekistan and Ukraine are establishing new relations, an Uzbek Government official told ITAR-TASS after delegations from the two countries ended their talks in Tashkent today.

The official, Abdumanon Makhmudov, stressed that the Ukrainian Government delegation had arrived for a visit to Tashkent in order to solve specific problems and create favorable conditions for the further development of trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation, co-production and cultural ties between the two countries.

Makhmudov also said that as a result of talks, the two countries signed a number of vitally important documents, including, first of all, a declaration of conditions for economic cooperation between Ukraine and Uzbekistan, an agreement between the government and central bank of Uzbekistan and the government and national bank of Ukraine on mutual payments, an agreement between the two countries on co-production, and an agreement on cooperation between the culture ministries of the two countries.

"The meeting of the two state delegations in Tashkent is, in fact, the first stage in establishing new relations between the two countries," Makhmudov said.

He added that an Uzbek delegation would pay a return visit to Kiev in three weeks time. Ten more documents will be signed, including an agreement on freight transportation, an agreement on cooperation in money transfers by post, and an agreement on interaction in the field of aircraft building.

The delegations will also sign a resolution on the resumption of air traffic between the two capitals from October of this year.

Indian Joint Enterprise Formed To Produce Medicines

LD1209084494 Tashkent Radio Mashal in Uzbek 0700 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Summary from poor reception] The Termez oblast pharmaceutical association is setting up a joint pharmaceutical plant with the assistance of the (?Ajanta Ltd) Indian pharmaceutical firm and the Surkhan pharmaceutical plant collective. The raw materials will be produced locally. It is envisioned that installation of the equipment will be completed by November this year and production is expected from the new year. The joint enterprise will produce $10 million worth of medicines each year. Three farms will be set up in the oblast to supply the raw materials which the new joint enterprise will use to produce 60 types of medicines.

Armenia

Yerevan, Baku Dispute Reports on Occupied Towns

LD1309182394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] During his meeting with Azerbaijani leader Heydar Aliyev in Moscow last week, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan gave his "principal consent" to the withdrawal of Armenian troops from the towns of Shusha and Lachin, a high-ranking diplomat in Baku told Interfax.

The diplomat said "a principal agreement was reached" that the Lachin corridor, the only roadway between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, should be transferred to international control represented by a U.N. peacekeeping force.

The source said that at the Moscow summit Azerbaijan had guaranteed the safety of the Armenian community in Nagorno-Karabakh, both political and military.

In the meantime, Armenian Presidential Press Secretary Levon Zurabyan failed to confirm the statement at a briefing in Yerevan last Friday saying no solution to the Lachin issue had been found.

"The position of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh is the following: whatever solutions are found, it is necessary that communications connecting Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia be guaranteed," Zurabyan said.

Both Interfax's source in Baku and Zurabyan said that Aliyev and Ter-Petrosyan realized the need to deploy an international force in the conflict area. They said the two sides also confirmed their readiness to intensify their activities in the development of a framework political agreement on a settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Zurabyan told the briefing that in the draft document the withdrawal of Nagorno-Karabakh troops from six occupied districts of Azerbaijan, the lifting of the blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh and the repatriation of refugees had been agreed.

At the same time, he said the powers of separation forces and the participation of U.N. and CSCE observers had not been agreed yet.

The Azerbaijani diplomat said that both Aliyev and Ter-Petrosyan considered the Moscow summit as effective and decided to continue the dialog at the CIS summit in early October.

Army Positions Fired on From Azerbaijan

LD1309154294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1329 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Positions held by the Armenian army near the Aigepar and Vagan villages of the Krasnoselsk region of Armenia were shot at from mortars and machine-guns on Azerbaijani territory last evening.

The press center of the Armenian Defense Ministry told INTERFAX that there had been no casualties. Armenian servicemen refrained from returning fire.

Defense Minister Warns Azerbaijan Against Maneuvers

LD1309150894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1415 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Armenian Defense Minister Serzh Sarkisyan warned Azerbaijan against resuming military maneuvers in the zone of the Karabakh conflict where a cease-fire has been holding for four months.

Sarkisyan made this warning in Yerevan today. He also warned that Baku could not change the results of the war by buying large quantities of armaments because Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh can also play that game.

Sarkisyan said that if military actions resume "which is quite undesirable" success will lie with the country whose army is better prepared from both the military and moral-psychological standpoints.

Supply of Natural Gas to Yerevan in Question

NC1309121194 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 1034 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Yerevan ("LRAGIR" daily - Past), 09/13/94—It is impossible to supply natural gas to the population of Yerevan in winter, since the conditions of the pipes in Yerevan have not been checked.

Such checks should be carried if the pipes have not been used for 6 months or over. In Yerevan the pipe-line have not been operational for several years, said Director of "Armgasind" state concern Roland Adonts.

In addition to checks of the pipes the problem of gas volume also exists. The current volume of gas, entering the republic, excludes such a possibility. Daily requirements of Yerevan are 1.5-2 mln.cu.m. depending on weather conditions, he said and noted, interruptions of the gas supply would also a hindrance to its supply to the population.

Turkmenistan Increases Supply of Natural Gas

NC1309121394 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 1034 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Yerevan ("LRAGIR" daily), 09/13/94—For already two days, Turkmenistan increased the volume of gas for Armenia. In average, the republic receives about 4 mln.cu.m. of natural gas daily. This volume was never exceeding 3-3.2 mlns recently.

According to a report of the RA Government, Armenia and Turkmenistan signed an agreement in Moscow, during the Assembly of CIS countries leaders on September 19, on increasing the daily volume of natural gas by 1 mln.cu.m.

At the same time, two hours electricity supply regime is implemented in Yerevan. Governmental spokesman Vladimir Manoian said, an increase of electricity tariffs is expected in Armenia starting from October 1.

Nuclear Specialists Said Satisfied by ANPP

NC1209133894 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 2226 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Yerevan ("RESPUBLICA ARMENIA" daily), 09/09/94—The problem of reopening the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant [ANPP] is getting even more important now, when winter is not too far away. A delegation of Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy, headed by First Deputy Minister Lev Ryabiyev has visited Yerevan recently. The delegation includes specialists who designed the Medzamor station and constructors of the atomic reactor.

According to the head of "Armatomenergo" Department Arkadiy Avakyan, Russian specialists were satisfied by operations on deconservation of the Nuclear Power Plant. Meanwhile they made understood that an immediate financing and material-technical supplies are needed. Thus, a group is being formed in Moscow, involving representatives of Financial Ministries of RA [Republic of Armenia] and RF [Russian Federation], to support getting the credit within short time.

"Rosatomenergo" is also interested in this very much, since Russian organizations are involved in reconstruction operations, and they performed 70 percent of due work, particularly investigations of the atomic reactor.

Questioned about the terms when the power plant can be operated Mr. Avakyan said that if all sections of the chain work properly, the power plant may start operation by winter.

Azerbaijan

Parliament To Pass Election Law, Draft Constitution

MK1309104094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Azerbaijan"]

[Text] The Azerbaijani parliament is scheduled to draw up the law "On Parliamentary Elections" during its current session. Rasul Guliyev, Azerbaijani Supreme Council chairman, has said that following parliamentary elections a referendum will be held in the republic on the adoption of a new constitution. In the speaker's view, except for the 1993 presidential elections, all subsequent elections involved irregularities. He thought it inadvisable to comment in advance on the bill on parliamentary elections, even though he added that he does not see any substantial difference between this draft and the previous, similar law. As for the drafting of a new Azerbaijani constitution, Rasul Guliyev said that work in this area is under way and is being supervised by Safa Mirzoyev, parliamentary chief of staff.

Police Clash With Elchibey Supporters

MM1309131394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Sokhbet Mamedov: "Azerbaijan: Elchibey's Supporters Clash with Police"]

[Text] Baku—Last weekend in Baku was overshadowed by what was an unprecedented clash in the last few months between supporters of former President Abulfaz Elchibey and the police.

The reason for the clash was an attempt by the People's Front of Azerbaijan [PFA] to hold a rally in a public garden in the center of the Azerbaijani capital. The ensuing drama confirms some analysts' forecasts that the confrontation between opposition forces and the republic authorities is switching to a new phase.

It is hard to tell who provoked the clash—the demonstrators or the police. Amid the chaos both sides were as brutal as one another. Fists, stones, and sticks were used. The embittered police, who received orders to disperse the crowd, did not confine themselves to using night sticks. They fired shots in the garden and official and patrol cars drove at onlookers. As a result dozens were seriously injured and around 100 people were arrested and taken to special reception areas for breaching public order. The casualties include law enforcement personnel.

This incident occurred at a time when Geydar Aliyev, following his return from a meeting with L. Ter-Petrosyan in Moscow, was receiving the Turkish foreign minister at his residence. Both these meetings, as might have been expected. had one aim—to seek ways of settling the Armenian-Azerbaijani war. However Geydar Aliyev's desire to resolve this problem peacefully is viewed by his political opponents, the radicals in particular, as an attempt to once again "bring Russian troops into Azerbaijan under cover of peacemaking forces."

On the eve of the rally the PFA issued an "Appeal to the People" harshly criticizing the incumbent leadership's foreign and domestic policy and voicing a negative attitude toward the "grand political treaty" being prepared for signing. In the opinion of the PFA, the draft treaty contains "crushing terms for Azerbaijan and may do irreparable damage to its independence and territorial integrity."

The decision to hold a protest rally effectively meant that the opposition forces are fully determined to take vigorous steps in the event of the republic's leadership "forgoing Azerbaijan's interests."

They seem to be capable of doing so. Discontent is already ripening within society. The population's grave social position and the beggarly wages outweigh the calls for people to be patient and give the authorities, who are up to their eyes in corruption and bribes, a chance to rectify the situation.

77 Arrested in Demonstration

NC1209135394 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1630 GMT 10 Sep 94

["Text" of a statement issued by the Azerbaijani Ministry of Internal Affairs Press Service on 10 September—read by announcer]

[Text] The Boz Gurd organization, Azerbaijani People's Front, and other opposition forces are resorting to every kind of disgusting activity and [words indistinct] social and political moves to achieve their inauspicious intentions. They are buttering the enemy's bread, something that is confirmed by the mass demonstration in Baku today. The demonstrators moved from near the 28 May Subway Station toward the Presidential Palace and [words indistinct] at about 1700, trying to disrupt law and order.

The police officials were forced to fulfill their duties by taking measures to obstruct the disruption of law and order. But they were threatened by the demonstrators, who made abusive remarks. Several demonstrators attacked police officials with blunt objects. They even damaged vehicles parked in the area. Dozens of police officials suffered injuries of varying degrees.

Resolute measures were taken to obstruct the demonstration and 77 participants were arrested. Law and order has been restored to the city and the procurator's office has launched an investigation.

People's Front Warns of Police State

LD1209211094 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The Azerbaijan People's Front has today assessed the dispersal of rallies in Baku as an attempt by the authorities to put an end to the democratic opposition and install a military police regime. The front places all the blame for the possible consequences and deepening of confrontation in society on the present leadership of Azerbaijan.

Further Report on Clash

LD1209200694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The opposition People's Front of Azerbaijan has described the break up of an anti-government demonstration by Azeri police in Baku on Saturday as another attempt to try to end democratic opposition in the country by installing "a military- police regime" there.

In a statement on Monday, the Front stressed that the responsibility for further confrontation in the country would entirely rest with the government.

In the meantime, 54 of the 100 opposition members detained by police have declared a hunger strike in protest against police atrocities, one Front leader Arif Aliyev told Interfax on Monday.

He said that hundreds of policemen including members of riot police armed with truncheons and automatic weapons attacked the crowd of about 2,000 protesters, several of them being seriously injured. The protesters called against the introduction of Russian troops to the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and condemned the government's home and foreign policy.

The Front maintains that one of its leaders and former State Secretary in the Elchibey government Ali Kerimov was beaten up brutally. He now faces charges of carrying a hand grenade in his pocket, but Front officials accuse the policemen of secretly placing it into Kerimov's pocket.

In the meantime, the Azeri police in a statement on Monday said dozens of policemen were injured during violent clashes with protesters.

Police counts put the number of protesters detained on Saturday at 77.

Deputy Prime Minister Thanks Iran for Refugee Aid

LD1309212994 Tehran IRNA in English 2021 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Baku, Sept. 13, IRNA—Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Ali Takhmazov said here on Monday that the Islamic Republic of Iran has put into practice its humanitarian and philanthropic measures and accounts for the largest amount of relief aid to Azeri refugees.

Takhmazov, who made the remark while welcoming Governor of Iran's Zanjan Province Sajjadi Kazemi at the Astara border on Monday, thanked the Iranian Government for its unsparing efforts to provide assistance to Azeris displaced by the Armenian offensives.

He called as "very sincere" Azerbaijani bonds with the Iranian people and government.

Takhmazov also praised the "positive" efforts of the Iranian Ambassador to Baku 'Ali Akbar Nahavandian in consolidating friendship and strengthening bilateral cultural and economic relations.

The meeting was also attended by Nahavandian, and the leader of the Islamic revolution's representative and Friday prayer leader of Zanjan Ayatollah Esmail Musavi Zanjani. Nahavandian for his part underlined the need for cooperation between Iranian and Azeri officials, especially between Zanjan province and the Republic in the industrial and agricultural fields.

Ayatollah Tanjaninin in a brief talk referred to Azerbaijan's return to the Islamic fold after 70 long years of communist suffocation as "divine help".

Addressing Azeri officials, Sajjadi said "your brothers and sisters in Islamic Iran have since years ago prayed and waited for your freedom in Azerbaijan Republic."

The Iranian delegation is to deliver [word indistinct] load of relief aid to Azeris on behalf of citizens of Zanjan Province.

Georgia

Russian General Orders Refugee Operation Start

LD1409104194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0800 GMT 14 Sep 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russia's Deputy Defense Minister [Colonel-General] Georgiy Kondratyev, who is in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone, told the Abkhaz leadership this morning that he will go ahead with the mass return of Georgian refugees to the Gali district of Abkhazia. The general stressed that anybody who resists the operation will receive an armed rebuff from the Russian peacekeeping forces.

Refugee Passage To Begin 14 Sep

LD1309170494 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The information center for the political settlement of the Abkhaz conflict has told the CONTACT news agency that a meeting was held today in Zugdidi that was attended by Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia; Lieutenant General Vardiko Nadibaidze, the Georgian defense minister; Abkhaz Supreme Council Chairman Zurab Erkvania; Gali Rayon administrator Vakhtang Kolbaia; and Yuriy Bechvaia, head of the coordinating headquarters of the Abkhaz Council of Ministers. Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev, first deputy defense minister of Russia, participated in the work of the session.

Issues connected with Abkhaz problems and with the visit to Moscow by Patsatsia and Nadibaidze were discussed at the session. Organizational headquarters for the return of refugees were set up at the recommendation of the meeting. The headquarters were entrusted with resolving specific issues connected with the return of refugees. The Zugdidi administration was ordered to resolve the issue of transportation of the refugees. Gen. Kondratyev said at the meeting that Russian President Boris Yeltsin had given him a special task to guarantee the return of the refugees in the nearest future. According to Kondratyev, an organized passage of refugees will begin tomorrow, 14 September.

Abkhaz Officials Note Attack on Russian Troops

LD1409092794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0757 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow September 14—Details of an attack on officers of the peace-keeping force which took place in the area of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict on Monday night came to ITAR-TASS today.

First deputy chairman of the Abkhazian Council of Ministers, Sergey Bagapsh, told ITAR-TASS that several unidentified subversive terrorist groups had been operating in the Gali region of the republic. These groups are headquarted on the Georgian territory and make inroads into the right-hand bank of the Inguri river. According to the results of a preliminary investigation, Russian servicemen were attacked from an ambush made by one of these groups near the village of Nabakevi.

A car carrying the Russian officers belonging to the peace-keeping force came under submachine gun fire and then was attacked with hand grenades. As a result of this terrorist act, two senior lieutenants Valeriy Kokalevich and Sergey Bulatov died, and another officer was badly injured.

On the order issued by the chief of staff of joint peacekeeping forces, Major-General Yuriy Kozlov, mobile peace-keeping troops combed the area of the attack immediately after the assassination. According to Bagapsh, the general said that the terrorists had escaped to the territory of Georgia. This conclusion was confirmed by the results of a prosecutor's investigation.

"The factor of the assassination of Russian servicemen is regarded in Abkhazia as an attempt made by extremist forces to build up tension in this area, sow discord between the Russian and Abkhazian people and disrupt the process of peaceful settlement in the area which was making progress thanks to Russia's efforts," Bagapsh said.

Killing of Russian Servicemen Investigated

LD1309213994 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1950 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Edict by the head of state [Eduard Shevardnadze].

During the night of 12 September, in the village of Zemo Varghebi, Gali Rayon, criminals riddled a car with bullets carrying military servicemen from the peacekeeping forces, and as a result two officers were killed and one seriously injured.

This action must be deemed a provocative act aimed at impeding the peace process. Despite the fact that the territory of Georgia—where this violent act took place—is not under the control of the republic's administrative bodies, I order the Georgian Prosecutor's Office, the Interior Ministry, and the security service to use every available means and to take relevant measures for establishing and investigating in an operational manner the circumstances connected with this criminal act.

I convey my deep condolences to the bereaved families and the whole of the peace-keeping forces' personnel deployed in the conflict zone.

[signed] Eduard Shevardnadze.

Russian Troops Accused of Maltreating Citizens

LD1209202994 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Events on the border of Georgia and Abkhazia could assume a quite sudden nature, General Yakushev, commander of the Russian peacemaking forces in the region, believes. He does not rule out the possibility of refugees crossing the border spontaneously. In this connection, the Russian peacemakers have worked out several options of action in such situations.

Meanwhile, from Abkhazia's Gali Rayon information is coming in about Russian peacemakers' mistreatment of the local Georgian population. This was announced by Aleksandr Kavsadze, chairman of the Georgian Human Rights Committee. In the near future Tbilisi is to send a special commission to the area to investigate the report.

Shevardnadze Opens New Session of Parliament

LD1309124294 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1000 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA)—The Georgian parliament resumed work today after the recess. The session was opened by the Georgian head of state, Eduard Shevardnadze, who familiarized members of parliament with the sociopolitical situation which has formed in Georgia. He noted that at this time all forces are required to be mobilized in order to prepare for the winter. Shevardnadze also reported that a significant amount of wide-ranging humanitarian aid from the world community will arrive in the republic very shortly.

Discussing the crime situation, the head of state noted that a certain degree of stability has been achieved. He also praised the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Security Service for their good work and expressed gratitude to their employees.

Speaking about a recent CIS meeting in Moscow, Shevardnadze said that apart from attending the meetings specified in the event's agenda, Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia and Defense Minister Vardiko Nadibaidze also met with high-ranking Russian military representatives (Shevardnadze intends to brief parliament on the results of these meetings at the next session).

Touching on issues concerning the development of culture, science, and sport the head of state noted that these spheres are currently in poor shape and require close attention. Without them, the normal development of a nation would be impossible.

He also reported that work on a draft of the country's new Constitution is under way and that it is being conducted with the help of foreign experts. According to Shevardnadze, by year's end the draft Constitution will be presented to the republic's population for familiarization.

Shevardnadze Notes Signs of Improvement in Economy

LD1309163694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 13 Sep 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 177 (667) compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Signs of economic improvement are making themselves felt in Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze told parliament on Tuesday. Whereas in the first quarter of the year the industrial decline index stood at 74 percent, during the first eight months of the year it was 50 percent, he said.

He believes that the adoption of about 20 economic laws by the Georgian parliament, above all the laws on enterprises, budget, privatization checks, bankruptcy, securities, investments and the protection of consumers' rights, will accelerate economic rehabilitation in Georgia.

Without these laws, no state can function normally, he said.

Certain economic improvement became possible due to political stabilization and energy saving measures, he said.

Shevardnadze reiterated the pledge to increase wages, pensions, student grants and other social payments.

He noted, however, that the Georgian authorities would continue to pursue the policy of price liberalization. He proposed balancing the prices on bread with spending on its production and increasing the price of one kilogram of bread about 20 times. "Such a measure is a must for the state and for the subsidized baking industry," he said.

Speaking about measures to combat crime, Shevardnadze said: "Society supports our life-or-death war against crime." "The state will give every possible assistance to the power bodies," he added.

Commenting on the Abkhazian problem, he said that the Georgian position was supported by the world community. "There is no alternative to the political settlement of the conflict," he said. He also announced that he was holding active talks with the Russian authorities and that important decisions on the normalization of the situation were expected to be taken shortly.

Parliament Votes Against State Reform

LD1309203294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1806 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] On the very first day of the parliamentary session after the summer recess, the Georgian parliamentary opposition raised the need to restructure the state system in the republic.

According to one of the opposition leaders, Nodar Natadze, "control over the country has been lost, that is why considerable corrections are needed." The best option would be to shift power onto the government, he said. "The office of head of state must be abolished," he added.

An Interfax correspondent reported from Tbilisi that the opposition's proposal to include the issue in the agenda was rejected by a vote.

Georgian Vice Prime Minister Teimuraz Basilia addressed the session with a report on the beginning of price liberalization and social security measures.

Basilia said the government had decided to raise the price of natural gas from 2,600 to 200,000 coupons per cubic meter, electricity from 100 to 60,000 coupons and public transport from 1,000 to 50,000 coupons.

The price of bread will be raised from 700 to 200,000 coupons as of September 15. Simultaneously, the government will increase salaries, pensions, stipends and social benefits.

The minimum salary in Georgia this month must be equal to 2.5 million coupons (the U.S. dollar is now trading at about 4 million coupons). Until now, the minimum salary amounted to 56,000 coupons.

The parliament held no debate on the issue.

Tbilisi To Import Natural Gas From Iran

LD1309213094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1934 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By GEORGIAN NEWS AGENCY correspondent]

[Text] Tbilisi September 13 TASS—Georgia and Iran have agreed on the Iranian winter delivery of up to 700 million cubic meters of natural gas, sources at the Georgian Government told the GEORGIAN NEWS AGENCY today. Alongside with the Turkmen supplies, the Iranian delivery will help overcome fuel deficit in Georgia. In their turn, Turkey and Bulgaria may supply electricity.

The Kavksioni electric power line will soon be restored to enable Georgian integration with the Russian united energy system and delivery of additional 100-150 megawatts of electricity.

Georgia is also working to reform price formation and finances.

The government will stop allocations for the production and consumption of gas and electricity. New gas and electricity prices have been introduced to amount to 200,000 Georgian coupons per one cubic meter of natural gas and 60,000 Georgian coupons for one kilowatt/hour of electricity.

Bread prices will be freed on October 15. Bread sales will be rationed, and an average bread price is expected to reach 150,000- 200,000 coupons.

The minimum salary will be one million coupons, and the monthly pension for unemployed pensioners of all categories—250 per cent of the minimum salary.

S. Ossetian Premier Resigns

LD1309123694 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1000 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Tskhinvali, 13 Sep—There is a split within the leadership of so-called South Ossetia, with parliament at odds with a party to reckon with. The main reason for this is that the parliamentary leadership is in favor of a dialogue with the Georgian side, while armed groups oppose it and want unification with North Ossetia.

Owing to this, Feliks Zasoyev, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the so-called South Ossetian republic, Znaur Gasiyev, first deputy chairman of the State Parliament [Nikhas], and other officials have resigned from their posts.

Groups Protest 'Inactive' Structures in S. Ossetia

AU1309171794 Tbilisi AKHALI TAOBA in Georgian 9 Sep 94 p 2

[IBERIA report: "The Situation in the Tskhinvali Region"]

[Text] Akhsarbek Galazov, president of the Republic of North Ossetia, stated in an interview given to Russian radio that South Ossetia should remain part of Georgia.

The foreign affairs minister of the Republic of South Ossetia has prepared a protest note as a result of this statement by Akhsarbek Galazov, but Ludvig Chibirov, chairman of the Republic of South Ossetia Nikhas [parliament], has halted the dispatch of this note and its publication in the press.

The presidium of the "Tskhinvali" Society, the gamgeoba [board] of the Tskhinvali Union of Citizens, and members of the Headquarters of Refugees from Samachablo [South Ossetia] have sent an appeal to Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze, in which it is stated in particular: "Those commissions and state structures that have been entrusted with regulating the conflict in Samachablo and the return of refugees are completely inactive. Sensing such inattention, armed formations, bandit groups, and separatists on the Ossetian side are attacking travelers and the Georgian population. We are compelled to resort to protest actions."

Estonia

Prime Minister on Stepping Down Over Budget

WS1309150194 Tallinn BNS in English 1320 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Tallinn, Sep 13, BNS—Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar has hinted he may step down because of some proposed amendments to the second supplementary budget for 1994.

Commenting on the discussion of the supplementary budget coming up in the parliament on Wednesday, Laar said its course may show whether the parliamentary opposition will allow the government to continue.

"The proposed amendments include some suggestions which, if approved, won't allow me to continue taking responsibility for the state in my capacity as prime minister," the government press service quoted Laar as saying.

MP Mihkel Kraav, a member of the Royalist Party, moved that budget appropriations for the Estonian Peacekeeping Company be redirected to universities.

"I've supported and will continue supporting giving additional funds to universities, especially Tartu University, but it can't be done at the expense of the peacekeeping unit. The government pruned the expenses of the company as it is, and additional cuts will make its formation meaningless," the premier claimed. He pointed out that the establishment of the peacekeeping company is part of Estonia and NATO's cooperation program.

'Special Order' Planned for Opening 2d Paldiski Reactor

WS1409093594 Tallinn ETA in English 0704 GMT 14 Sep 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Special order will be enforced in the region around a former Soviet submarine training base Paldiski in north-west Estonia in the next few days in connection with opening of the lid of the second of the two Paldiski nuclear reactors on September 20, Estonian representative at the nuclear site Juri Tikk told ETA on Tuesday. Tikk said that the head of the site Admiral Olhovikov had informed him officially of the opening of the lid today, thus observing former agreements.

The special order, which, observing safety rules, permits movement in the area only of persons directly concerned with the work, was also enforced during removal of the nuclear fuel from the first reactor of the base, which was completed last week.

The work has been going on without problems and ahead of the determined schedule, with the level of radiation being close to the natural level, Estonian Foreign Ministry stated last week.

Russia has to dismantle the two reactors of the former Russian nuclear submarine training base near Tallinn by September 30, 1995 according to the Estonian-Russian agreement of July 30 this year. The rescue teams of both states started removing the nuclear fuel at the end of August.

Zhirinovskiy on Visa Black List

MM1409100794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Lembit Annus: "The Way to Estonia Is Barred for Zhirinovskiy"]

[Text] Tallinn—Foreign Minister Juri Luik announced this [reference to headline] at the fall session of the Estonian State Assembly which opened on Monday. As the minister maintained, "Zhirinovskiy's bellicose statements have caused damage to Estonian statehood, and anyone who makes such statements should take into account that he has no place in Estonia."

The head of the foreign policy department confirmed the existence in the parliament of a "black list" of people whom the consular departments of Estonian embassies must refuse visas for entering the country. However, the minister refused the deputies' request to make public the other names on this "black list." He stated that "it is the sovereign right of the Estonian state to refuse, without justifying the reasons, an entry visa to anyone who applies for one."

He also noted that "200 Estonian visas are issued a day in the embassy in Moscow and the consulate in St. Petersburg."

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